CAPTURE OF MAJOR ANDRÉ. From Prentice's History of New York State

STORIES OF NEW YORK

FOR

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

BY

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Publisher's Introduction

The recent marked tendency to make local history prominent in supplementary reading is in every way to be commended. Children like tales of adventure and daring; they like such tales the more if they know they are true, and still more if they are associated with places near by or well-known.

New York is as remarkable in its history as in its geography. Here were the headquarters of the Indians; here were some of most romantic of explorations; here were the most important battles of the revolution and of the war of 1812; here the Erie canal was built; here the first steamboat ran; here the development of commerce and of manufactures has been the greatest. To ride from Albany to New York or to Buffalo is to pass through a region full of historical associations.

This history is the rightful heritage of the children of the State. They have the right to expect of their education that it shall enable them to recognize its landmarks and recall their associations. When they see from the windows of the

train the Oriskany monument, it should call up the picture of what was perhaps the pivotal battle of the revolution, with General Herkimer wounded at the foot of the tree but still directing his men. When they pass the ruins of Ticonderoga, their minds should recall Ethan Allen's rough demand for its surrender. Crown Point, Plattsburg, Oswego, Niagara, Stony Point —what memories of valiant deeds should cluster about these names.

This volume is a contribution to this end. The stories deal with the Indians, the explorers, the patroons; they tell of Champlain and Stuyvesant and Leisler; of the settlement of New York, the burning of Schenectady, the capture of Ticonderoga and Stony Point, the surrender of Burgoyne, the treason of Arnold. Most of the stories are told as by contemporaries—the narrative of the wounded soldier to his grandchild, the letter of the husband to the wife, of the son to his absent mother. They have all been used in the schoolroom and have all been found to be interesting to the children. Profitable they cannot fail to be.

For supplementary reading the advantage of stories which have a connection is well-known to observing teachers. The large, open type, the familiar conversational style, the illustrations, make it admirably adapted for a reader for

children of the fourth to seventh grades. It will prove among the most pleasing to the children, and certainly among the most useful in every way. Our children should know what a grand old State they live in, and they cannot learn history more certainly and pleasantly than by using this volume as a reader.

The expressed purpose of the regents of the University and of the department of public instruction to give more and more prominence in the regents and in the uniform examinations in history and geography to the history and geography of New York, makes it especially desirable as an early preparation for these examinations.

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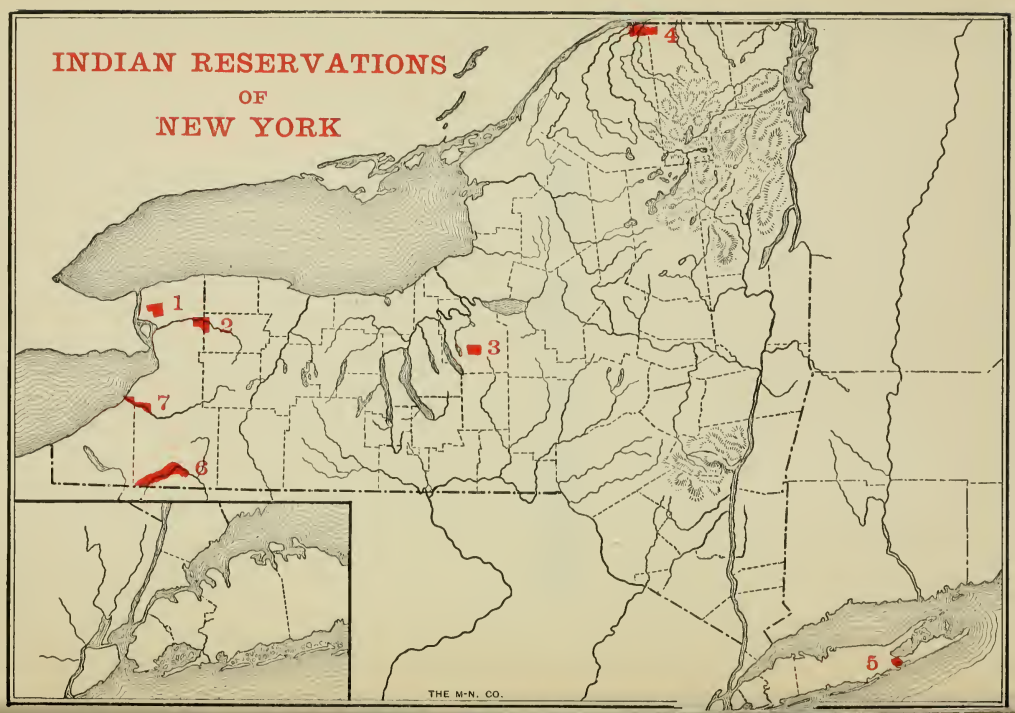
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The Indians of New York

Hundreds of years ago, before the foot of white man ever trod the soil of the new world, where now fruitful farms and populous towns lie, the Indian roamed through the forest, or paddled his canoe over the smooth lake or rapid river. Extending through the State of New York was the country of the Iroquois, a confederation composed of five, and later of six tribes. The Mohawks occupied the eastern part of the State. West of them were the Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas. These tribes were united in war, but each governed itself in local affairs, only sending its sachems and warriors to the grand council held at the call of the chief sachem of the confederation, at a town of the Onondagas near the site of the present city of Syracuse.

Many towns of the various tribes were scattered through the State. Let us suppose ourselves in one of the villages of the Senecas, the tribe most skilled in building. It is situated near the shore of one of the beautiful lakes of central New York. The land slopes gently down

to the pebbly beach, and at a distance of a few hundred yards from the lake we see through the trees the habitation of the Indians. Before the door is a tall pole bearing the rudely-carved representation of the bear, the totem of this particular family. Each tribe was divided into families or clans, all supposedly descended from the same female ancestor, and each having its separate sign or totem.

The building is a narrow structure, considerably over one hundred feet in length, with gable toward the lake. It is built with a wooden framework covered with elm-bark. These long houses are built to last several years, and are much more substantial than the wigwams of some other tribes. Issuing from a number of holes in the roof, are thin lines of smoke. Entering a building by a door at the end, we would find ourselves in a passageway between two rows of stalls. The first two, nearest the entrance, are reserved for storing the beans, corn, tobacco and other stores belonging to the tribe. Everything except weapons and trinkets is held in common, and to these storehouses all members of the tribe go for provisions.

Passing on we see four stalls or rooms grouped about a common fire-place, which is a pit in the hard earthen floor, directly under a hole in the roof. Each of these stalls serves for the home

of a family. There are six or seven fire-pits, each with its accompanying group of rooms, and at the farther end, store-rooms similar to those we first found.

Over one of the fires a squaw is cooking the family supper. This consists of parched corn and fish, just caught from the lake. Part of the smoke from the fire escapes through the hole in the roof above it, and part settles down, rendering the air almost unbreathable. There are no windows and the only light comes from above, and from the fires.

These Indians raise corn, beans, pumpkins, squashes and sunflowers, the women cultivating the soil with rude hoes made by tying a flat stone to a stick. The lake and forest supply the remainder of the food. The only domestic animal is the dog, numbers of which skulk about the dwellings.

Passing outside we see some of the squaws returning from labor in the fields, many with their pappooses strapped to a board on their backs, peering out with their beady black eyes. On entering the house the mother will hang the baby in its strange cradle on the wall, while she busies herself with domestic duties.

A few old men linger about the house, sitting on the ground in the light of the setting sun,

smoking pipes of copper with earthenware bowls. Their dress is of skins, and on their feet they wear mocasins made of the hide of the deer.

At length, just as daylight is fading away, a faint shout is heard from the lake. All rush to the shore, and spy a black speck which soon shows itself to be a number of canoes, paddled rapidly by muscular Indian warriors. Their paddles keep time to a peculiar rhythmic chant which, as they approach the shore, gives place to a succession of blood-curdling whoops. They seem intoxicated with joy. Upon reaching the shore they rush madly from the canoes, brandishing bows and arrows, and waving in the air the bloody scalps of their enemies, for this is a returning war party. The warriors are muscular, well-formed men, with hair adorned with feathers and bodies smeared with paints in various colors and designs.

A huge fire is hastily kindled near the shore, the warriors snatch food, quickly cooked by the squaws, devour it as a hungry animal would, some men eating pieces of raw meat, and begin a weird dance about the fire. This, slow and measured at first, and accompanied by the rattle of rude drums, soon becomes fierce and furious, and is continued until one after another of the warriors becomes exhausted.

Such were the Indians of New York. Skilful above other tribes in building the long-houses, in the manufacture of rude stone-headed arrows, spears, and tomahawks, cunning in the chase and on the war-path, faithful to a friend and cruel and revengeful to an enemy, they possessed the faults and virtues of wild children of the forest.

JOHN BRANT, THAYENDANEGEA

The Discovery of New York

About the table upon which the evening meal was spread, in a modest Dutch home, were gathered, early in the winter of 1609, a middle-aged matron and her three children, two little daughters and a tall, stalwart son. There was an air of great excitement in the group, and admiring glances were frequently cast at the boy, who, from his appearance, was a sailor, who had just returned from a long voyage.

After finishing the frugal supper, the younger girl climbed to her brother's knee, and said, in an awe-stricken tone, "And you were really in the New World, Heinrich! Were there dragons there, and goblins?"

"No, little sister," was the reply, "but there were strange beasts and stranger men. Sit still and I will tell you about it." So while the elder girl put away the remains of the meal, and the mother took her knitting, the boy recounted his adventures.

"You know," said he, "how anxious the East India Company was to find a route to India toward the northwest. We sailed in that direction

after leaving Texel last April, hoping to discover the long wished for passage, but we met only fogs, winds, and ice and had to turn back. Then Captain Hudson steered south, sailing for weeks through unknown seas. Early in July we spoke some French fishermen on the banks of Newfoundland, and a few days later entered a very good harbor a little to the south on the coast of the mainland, where we set a new main mast and mended our sails. Then we pursued our journey toward the south and, on the eighteenth of August, rode at anchor off the mighty bay into which the river of King James, in Virginia, flows. As the passages toward the south had been explored by the English and the Spanish, we turned our prow northward, to view more carefully the shores we had passed.

HENRY HUDSON, 1550-1611

"Early in September we entered a goodly bay in which all the ships of Holland might ride in safety. We anchored, and the savages came out to us in canoes made of hollow trees, which they paddled with much dexterity; they wished to exchange their furs for knives and beads. The next day some of us landed. As Captain

Hudson stepped on shore the Indians stood and chanted in a strange, weird fashion, believing us to be visitors from Heaven. They wore fur or feather mantles, shell bracelets and necklaces, and some of the men had pipes of copper with earthen bowls, in which they burn that plant called tobacco which Sir Walter Raleigh brought into fashion in England. They passed the lighted pipes around from one to the other, each puffiing at it in turn."

"And did you take it too?" questioned the child on his knee. "Did it taste good?"

"Yes, I took some, but it was a strange, strong plant, and it gave me a queer, bad feeling," was the reply.

"The day after this," he continued, "John Colman, an Englishman of the crew, was killed by an arrow while returning from exploring the shore. This made us more cautious, and we soon moved up the bay to the mouth of the river, which the Indians said flows far and feels the tides of the ocean. Next day we started northward, sailing sometimes past steep, rocky cliffs, and sometimes along green, gently-sloping shores. It is a noble river, and the land through which it flows is as fair as one could wish to see.

"Occasionally we stopped and visited friendly natives. Once they offered us a banquet, send-

ing hunters out into the forest for pigeons and other game, and killing fat dogs. They had quantities of a grain called maize which is very good when parched.

"We did not stop long, but went on until we could no longer feel the tide, and the stream became quite shallow in places. Then the Half Moon was anchored, and the ships' boat was manned and sent still further up the river. I was one of the crew. We rowed some distance up a tributary of the stream, which comes from the west, but the river constantly grew smaller, so we gave up and returned to the ship.

"The captain was very much disappointed, for he had hoped to go that way to the Indies, and he sorrowfully ordered the ship to be turned down stream.

"When we again came to the mouth of the river we found the same friendly natives who had shown themselves on our first arrival. Captain Hudson determined to give them a feast, and invited them on board the Half Moon. He gave them, among other things, some of our rum to drink. The chief took the cup, smelled it, and passed it on. The next did the same, and all refused to drink, until one, fearing we would take offence, said good-bye to his friends, took the rum and hastily swallowed it. Soon he began to lose his senses and fell down drunk.

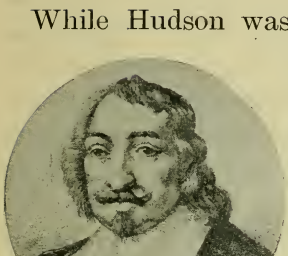
The others thought him dead, but, after sleeping a while, he awoke and told them that it was the strongest water he had ever drunk, but that it made him happier than he had ever been before in his life.

"After the banquet the Indians paddled away in their canoes, with presents of beads, cloth and knives. The next day we set sail for home, reaching Dartmouth, as I told you, the seventh of November. King James heard of our discoveries, and, as he knew Captain Hudson to be an Englishman, he stopped the vessel and will not allow her to leave. The captain sent his charts and log-book, with some other papers to the East India Company at Amsterdam, and I was one of those whom he selected to bring them. I came home as soon as they were delivered."

"I am glad you are home, and were not killed by those Indians, like the Englishman," whispered the little girl, sleepily.

"Come, daughter, you must not stay up too late, listening to your brother's tales. He can tell you more to-morrow. It is time for bed now," said the mother, and the children dutifully kissed mother and brother and left the room.

Samuel de Champlain



Samuel de Champlain, 1567-1635

While Hudson was making his way up the beautiful river which bears his name, a French voyager had entered the territory occupied by the present State of New York, from the north. Samuel de Champlain, for such was his name, had made a number of voyages to Canada, or New France as it was then called, and had established a settlement at Quebec.

Making friends of the Algonquin Indians, he explored much of the St. Lawrence region in their company, and in the summer of 1609 was induced to join a war-party against the Iroquois, or Five Nations, a confederacy occupying the territory to the south of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence river. Champlain, two French companions, and the warriors of the Algonquin tribe made their way up the Sorrel river, paddling swiftly along when the river was smooth,

and carrying their frail birch bark canoes on their backs around the water-falls and rapids. They entered the beautiful lake, studded with islands and surrounded by forest-clad mountains, to which Champlain gave his name, and paddled down to a promotory where Fort Ticonderoga was later built, before seeing any of their enemies. Suddenly near evening one day, an Iroquois war party was seen approaching the shore, and both parties halted and waited until morning for the battle, spending the night in taunts and jeers at each other.

The Iroquois was one of the bravest and most warlike tribes of the new world, but, relying upon their white companions, the Algonquins were confident of victory. They had previously planned the battle, in accordance with Indian methods, by selecting a level plot of ground, using sticks for warriors and longer ones for chiefs, and sticking them upright in the ground, the warriors gathering around, studying the arrangement and making suggestions, each one learning his own position in the battle.

When morning dawned the Algonquins advanced, carefully concealing the Frenchmen, until they had approached within a few hundred yards of their enemies. The Indians told Champlain that they were sure of victory if he could only kill three chiefs who came forward in front

of the Iroquois band, wearing plumes, and dressed in armor made of cotton-fibre. The Algonquin ranks opened and Champlain advanced twenty paces; he stopped, levelled his gun, a short arquebus loaded with four balls, and fired. This discharge killed two chiefs and wounded one warrior.

Astounded at the noise and at the effect of the shot, for the cotton-fibre coats of mail were impervious to arrows, and they could not understand how the bullets could penetrate them, the Iroquois broke and fled, pursued by the howling Algonquins. Thus, by one shot, did Champlain gain for his Indian allies the victory, and for himself and his countrymen the lasting enmity of the Iroquois. Moved by this defeat, and others of a like nature, this powerful nation always aided the English against the French.

A few months later Champlain and five of his French comrades accompanied his Indian allies on another war expedition, during which they attacked a fortified town of the Onondagas in central New York.

Whooping and yelling, they reached the town, which was surrounded by a stockade of logs. Leaving the Algonquins out of reach of the arrows of their enemies, Champlain and his white companions approached the stockade, and, thrusting their muskets through crevices, fired

at the defenceless Indians within. At last, seeing their ammunition was getting low, they bade the Algonquins approach the wall, under cover of their shields, and attach ropes to the posts, by which the structure could be pulled down and a breach made so that the assailants could enter. This was done, and the warriors were about pulling down the stockade, when Champlain spied a small party of French fur traders approaching in a canoe. He bade the Indians wait so that his friends could "have some of the sport".

When they came up, the traders took their muskets and fired into the living mass of red warriors within, until they became tired, when the stockade was pulled down and the Algonquins finished the destruction of the town. Out of one hundred warriors only seven escaped. The Algonquins gave Champlain the entire credit for this victory, as they rarely attacked a fortified town when unassisted, relying almost entirely on treachery and cunning to surprise their enemies in the forest or field, when away from the towns.

Other Frenchmen entered New York to fight against the Iroquois, and thus some of the strongest and most civilized tribes were alienated from them and made to serve as a protection to the English in the later struggles between the French and English.

The Settlement of New York

On the dock in the city of Amsterdam, one bright day in the summer of 1613, stood a group of four, talking earnestly and rapidly. They were the same persons whom we saw gathered around the supper table listening to the tale of the adventures of the son. Near by was moored the good ship "Tiger" ready to sail on a voyage to the New World for a cargo of furs. She was laden with cloth and trinkets for barter with the savages. The last of the cargo had just been taken aboard, chains rattled, officers shouted their orders, and the time had come to start.

"Good-bye, mother," said the sailor as he was ordered on board.

"Good-bye, my son," replied the mother embracing him with tears in her eyes.

The sisters then came in for their share of leave taking. "Good-bye, Heinrich. Will you bring me back a little Indian baby to play with, and a string of pearls like pigeon's eggs?" said the younger.

"Yes, Minnchen, if I can get them. Good-bye, little sisters, and be good while I am gone,"

and with a kiss and an embrace for each he joined a group of his comrades and hurried on board.

The vessel weighed anchor and was soon under way, amid the fluttering of kerchiefs and the tears of the parting. A voyage to the New World meant much in those days. It was long and full of peril.

After the vessel had sailed out of sight the mother and daughters, each weeping silently, started on their way back to their home. They must walk long, weary miles to their humble village dwelling, yet they did not mind that, if only they might see their loved one until the last minute.

A company of rich Amsterdam merchants had sent Captain Adriaen Block, an experienced navigator and a brave man, to the New Netherlands, as the country discovered by Hudson was called, for a cargo of furs. Four other ships, of which the "Fortune", commanded by Captain Hendrik Christiaensen was one, were sent about the same time. Heindrik Braun had been anxious to take the voyage with Captain Block, as he had already visited the New World in company with Hudson.

Months passed by and at last it was told in Amsterdam that the "Fortune" was in. After this became known, his mother and sisters waited

longingly for news of the "Tiger" and of Heinrich. In a few days one of his companions brought to the little home a letter, an unusual thing in those days. After much spelling and studying, the little family was able to make out the following:

"ISLAND OF MANNAHATTA,
Eighth of May, 1615.

"*My highly esteemed and beloved mother:*

"Since I left you on the dock at Amsterdam many months have passed and much has happened. I wish I could sit by our fireside and tell you about it, as I did six years ago, with little Minnie on my knee. But I suppose she would think herself too large to sit there now.

"We had a fine passage and moored, early in September, in the fine harbor which we entered with Captain Hudson. Many natives visited us and we soon had a quantity of rich furs in exchange for some of our cloth, beads and trinkets. But we had not a cargo, so decided to wait for a party of Indians from up the river.

"We were nearly all on shore one day, when we discovered the 'Tiger' was in flames. We sprang to the boats, but arrived too late to save the ship, although a large part of her cargo was saved.

"Captain Block at once set about building a small vessel of sixteen tons burden, which we

called the 'Restless'. To furnish quarters for the crew while this was being built, and to store the cargo, we built a few huts on this island, which the Indians call Mannahatta.

"After the 'Restless' was finished Captain Block left part of the crew with some of the fur traders on the island to traffic with the Indians, and went eastward to see what lands might be there. We who were left set about building a truck house and fort. We built a square log house with loop-holes on all sides, and surrounded it with a palisade of logs.

"After Captain Block had been gone about three months, Captain Hendrick Christiaensen was going further up the river, and, as I had been there before, he desired me to accompany him, which I did, although the winter weather was upon us and the river often filled with floating ice.

"We proceeded up the river almost as far as the ship could go, then landed and commenced trading with the Indians. Captain Christiaensen concluded to build a truck-house on a small island which we called Castle Island. We built the house of logs and surrounded it with a stockade and a moat eighteen feet wide. We stayed some time at this place, and then sailed south with a cargo of furs, leaving a garrison of twelve men to trade with the Indians.

"When we reached Mannahatta, which we of Amsterdam wish to call New Amsterdam, we found our men on very friendly terms with the natives and some of them not at all opposed to remaining until other ships come next year. I, too, decided to stay, partly because Captain Christiaensen could not take many of us, as he has to follow the coast eastward until he finds Captain Block, and take him and some of the crew of the 'Restless' back to Holland, and partly because there is need of men here, and I like the adventurous life of the trading post.

"Captain Christiansen will see that this long letter is delivered to you, that you may know that I am alive and well, and desirous to be with you all.

"My warmest love to both the dear sisters and to yourself, my most highly esteemed mother,

"From your fond son,

"Heinrich Braun."

Indian Revenge

Two Indians, one a chief past the meridian of life, but still full of the strength and vigor which comes from a life in the forest, the other a boy of perhaps fourteen or fifteen years, straight and willowy in form, were sauntering along the shore of a little lake which occupied formerly that part of Manhattan Island where later the Tombs was built. It was a clear autumn day in the year 1626. The sun glistened on the water and the light breeze brought down the leaves in showers. A flock of wild geese settled down slowly on the reedy margin of the lake, and the two stopped to watch them. Blows of the hammer resounded from the fort which was being built on the lower part of the island by direction of Governor Minuit. The Indians, who were from one of the tribes of River Indians, were about to resume their way to the trading post, whither they were taking a bundle of skins for barter, when suddenly they were confronted by three Dutchmen, farm servants of Governor Minuit, who were returning empty-handed from an examination of their traps, set the night before.

"The Indian has furs. The red-skins take all and leave none for us," said one, seeing the bundle in the possession of the chief, and angry at his own poor success.

"Let's take what he has," shouted another.

"We're with you," responded the third, and they attempted to rob the defenceless savages.

The Indians resisted. Loud and angry words were exchanged, then blows, until at last the three drew their knives and killed the unoffending chief. At the death of his uncle, the young Indian started and fled, with the last words of the murdered man, "Revenge, revenge," ringing in his ears. How well he carried out the dying commands, the later history of the colony can tell.

The governor neglected to expiate the crime by the payment of wampum, according to the Indian custom, and years passed. Governor Minuit was succeeded by Wouter Van Twiller, and he in turn by headstrong, cruel William Kieft. Kieft aroused the slumbering hatred of the tribes along the Hudson by imposing a tribute of furs and corn. Soon some swine were stolen from a plantation on Staten Island. The governor charged the innocent Raritans with the theft, and sent an armed force against them. Several Indians were killed. This served to arouse all the tribes about New Amsterdam.

Just at this time the nephew of the chief who had been killed by Minuit's servants, remembering the slaughter of his uncle, determined to execute the vow of vengeance which he had taken so long before. He crossed over to Manhattan, steathily entered the cabin of Claus Smits near the East River, slew him, plundered his dwelling, and fled. Thus had the slaughter of the unoffending warrior borne its bitter fruit.

But still more was to follow. His chief refused to give up the murderer at Kieft's demand. The angry governor was delighted to have a cause for war, but the colonists were as anxious to avert it. So great was the pressure brought to bear upon him that Kieft called a council of twelve men to advise him. This was the first representative assembly called for political purposes in New York. The twelve were anxious to secure peace with the Indians, but at last, in return for concessions granted by the governor, they gave a reluctant consent to the punishment of the Indians for the murder of Smits.

The red-skins eluded an expedition sent against them, and made a nominal peace with the Dutch. At midwinter a large war party of Mohawks came down the Hudson and the river tribes fled to the Dutch for protection, encamping near the river. Instead of rendering their red brethern

eternally greatful to them, and showing their humanity and Christian spirit, the Dutch, although this course was strongly resisted by most of the colonists, surprised the Indians on a cold night, and about a hundred savages, squaws and papooses as well as warriors, were slaughtered in cold blood.

Naturally the Indians retaliated in every way possible. Villages and farms were made desolate, and the colony was on the verge of ruin, which was averted only by the recall of Kieft and the appointment of Peter Stuyvesant in his place.

Life Under the Patroons

It was a pleasant day in the autumn of the year 1642. A soft haze hung over the Hudson, and the forests which lined its banks were reflected in its blue depths with all the gorgeous beauty of red and gold with which nature had clothed them. On the western bank of the river, near where Fort Orange, with its accompanying cluster of houses—then called Beverswyck, now Albany—was situated, two girls about twelve and fourteen years of age, were busily engaged in gathering the nuts which the frost of the previous night had scattered in abundance on the ground. Squirrels chattered among the trees, angry at the intrusion, and occasionally a flock of wild fowl skimmed over the tranquil waters of the river.

The girls were Lisbet and Gerretji van Nieukkerk, daughters of the schepen of Rensselaerwick. Gerritji, stopping to chase a squirrel as he ran along the ground from one tree to another, suddenly called out: "Lisbet! Lisbet! look, the sloop is coming up the river!"

Sailing slowly along in the light breeze was

the little vessel which did service between Rensselaerwick, the large estate of Patroon Van Rensselaer, and Manhattan Island.

"Let's go and see her come in," shouted Lisbet, and off they ran in the direction of the wharf. As they came near they saw Arendt van Curler, who governed the colony in the absence of the Patroon, walking with several others in the direction of the wharf. Women and children stood in groups near, and the two girls joined one of these groups.

Slowly the sloop sailed in, and at last her passengers could disembark. They were met at the wharf by the men, and welcomed by a hearty Dutch kiss and an embrace. Foremost of the group of comers was a man of about forty years of age, in the garb of a Dutch minister. He was accompanied by a woman, evidently his wife, and four children, a girl probably sixteen years of age, and three younger boys. These were Dominie Johannes Megapolensis, who had been sent over to preach the gospel on the estate of Patroon Van Rensselaer, and his family. There were also a number of other settlers, two of them accompanied by their wives.

Van Curler escorted the men and women to the settlement, but the children, allured by the sight of others near their own age, and wearied by their long passage up the river, lingered and

were approached by Lisbet and Gerritje van Nieukerke.

"My name's Gerritje; what's yours?" queried the girl, bashfully twisting one yellow braid, and poking her bare toe into the sand.

"My name is Hellegond Megapolensis, and these are my brothers, Dirrick, Johannes, and Samuel," replied the new comer.

"Will you have some of our nuts?" said Lisbet, offering an apron filled with chestnuts.

All accepted the invitation gladly and soon became quite talkative. They wandered off into the woods by the wayside, and finally sat down on a fallen tree at the outskirts of the settlement.

"Yes," Hellegond was saying, "we came from Amsterdam on the ship 'De Houttuyn' with Captain Adriaen Dircksen Houttuyn. We waited over two weeks at the Manhattans for the sloop to come for us; then we had a pleasant passage up the North River; but the time seemed long, for we were tired of being on the ship, and longed to get to our new home. How long have you been here?"

"We came nearly twelve years ago," answered Lisbet, "when I was only two years old and Gerritje a baby. That is our house over there near the river," and she pointed to a substantial log cabin to the left. "That is my father's

wheat field, too, and he raises more wheat on it than any other man in the colony on the same amount of land."

"But I thought all the land belonged to Mynheer Van Rensselaer," said Dirrick.

"So it does," continued Lisbet, "but we rent it of him and pay him so much wheat or so many skins for the use of it each year. Our noble patroon, you know, furnishes the settlers with as much land as they can cultivate, with horses and cows, plows and tools, and they pay him half the increase of their flocks and herds, and a portion of the crops raised. They sometimes prefer to pay a fixed rent each year, as my father does. No settler can leave the land for ten years, and if he leaves at the end of that time, all the buildings he has built belong to the patroon. We are not allowed to weave cloth or to grind our own grain, but must buy the cloth which comes from Holland in the West India Company's ships, and have the grain ground in the patroon's mill. We must give him the first chance to buy anything we have to sell, too. He has a right to govern us as he pleases, but must protect us from the Indians, and is to provide a church and a school. We expect to have a church before Christmas, right over there on that hill; and there is to be a ferry to bring the farmers from the other side of the river to church."

"Are there Indians here?" said little Samuel, looking about him in a frightened manner.

"Oh, yes," responded Gerritje, "lots of them, but they will not harm you, now. They are not at war with us, and only come to the fort to trade furs and wampum for cloth, beads or guns."

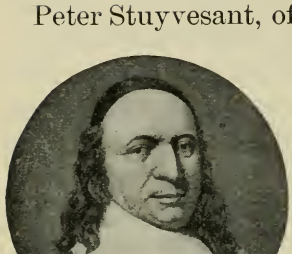
"Don't you think we had better go back to the father, sister?" queried the little fellow, shortly, looking about him as if he expected to see a painted savage spring out the woods.

"Yes, dear," was the smiling reply, as they all arose to join the older people.

They found their elders about to sit down to a meal prepared for them by Mistress van Curler and her willing neighbors. The room in which the table was laid was a long one, with a large fire-place at one side, surmounted by an oaken mantle on which was usually a row of bright pewter dishes, but these were now in use. The ceiling was low and the oaken beams were stained with smoke. About the sides of the room were guns, swords, bows and arrows, intermingled with strings of dried apples and pumpkins, and ears of corn hanging by their braided husks. The floor was covered with white sand. In one corner was a large clock, and drawn up to one side of the fire-place was a large oaken chair which had evidently been brought from the mother country.

At the head of the heavy oaken table sat Dominie Megapolensis with his wife next to him. The others were ranged about the table, and about smaller ones improvised of boards and benches. The tables groaned with the hearty viands dear to the Dutch housewife. Whole hams, haunches of venison, wild turkeys, hams, corn bread, cheese, with pumpkin pies, oily koeks, new milk, pots of tea, and pitchers of foaming beer, appeared as if by magic, and just as rapidly disappeared. The children, who were to wait until the older people had finished, were afraid there would be nothing left for them, but the stock of provisions held out, and they gorged themselves until they could eat no more. After a romp on the grass, the two girls proudly led the four strangers home to spend the night with them, for the new settlers had to stay at the different houses until homes could be provided for them.

Peter the Headstrong



PETER STUYVESANT, 1602-1682

Peter Stuyvesant, often called Peter the Headstrong, was the last, and in many respects, the best of the Dutch governors of New Amsterdam. By profession a soldier, he was fond of the arbitrary nature of military rule. He was a thorough disciplinarian, fond of show, aristocratic in the extreme, haughty toward his subordinates, but inflexibly honest, just and patriotic. He had been governor of Curaçoa for the Dutch West India Company and, while besieging the Portugese island of St. Martin, had lost a leg. The need of skilful medical treatment had brought him to Holland, and while there, he received the appointment of director general in place of William Kieft, whom the company had decided to recall.

The little fleet of four vessels bearing the new director and some settlers, arrived at Manhattan one pleasant May morning in 1647. The whole

city turned out under arms to meet him, shouted themselves hoarse, and nearly exhausted the gunpowder of the town to show their joy at his arrival.

Stuyvesant marched proudly up to the fort, displaying his silver-mounted wooden leg, which gained him the title of "Old Silver-leg". In utter disregard of everyone but himself, he kept a number of citizens standing for several hours bare-headed in the hot sunshine, and then made a speech to the people in which he promised to govern them "as a father his children, for the advantage of the chartered Dutch West India Company and these burghers and their land."

He was too honest to conceal his views and soon declared, "If any one during my administration shall appeal, I will make him a foot shorter and send the pieces to Holland, and let him appeal in that way." But, although despotic, honesty and wisdom characterized his government. Trade was regulated, relations with other colonies were adjusted, Indian troubles settled, the morals of the people and the support of religion attended to.

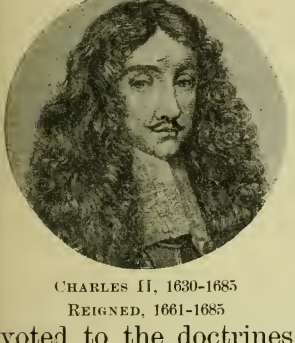
Peter succeeded at last in infusing some of his own energetic spirit into the people, and a period of comparative prosperity followed. Led by patriotic feeling, he dropped the Indian name of Manhattan and called the capitol of the colony

New Amsterdam. He found the town a straggling, irregularly built village, and he insisted upon the construction of buildings with reference to street lines. Houses of logs thatched with reeds and straw, with windows of oiled paper, began to give way to more pretentious dwellings of tiles, shingles and brick. At first brick was imported from Holland at great expense, but finally a brick yard was established on the island. The houses were surrounded by gardens in which tulips and cabbages, with some other flowers and vegetables, were grown. The floors of the living rooms were strewn with white sand, marked into fanciful shapes with the broom. Huge chests filled with homespun linen occupied the corners, cupboards with glass doors displayed rows of shinging pewter plates, and the wealthier citizens often had china tea sets and solid silver spoons, tankards, and punch bowls.

The citizens rose at cock-crowing, breakfasted at sunrise, dined at eleven, and at nine o'clock retired. The usual social gatherings were tea parties which began at three o'clock in the afternoon in winter, and ended at six, at which time the visitors went home and did their milking. The young men accompanied the maidens to their homes, and before departing decorously printed a resounding kiss on the blooming cheek at the gate. All were thrifty, economical and industrious.

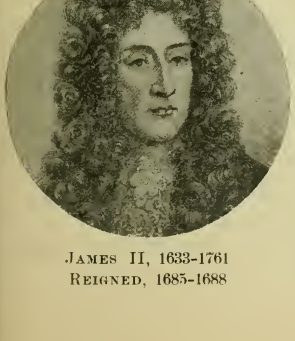
These were the "good old days", often disturbed, however by quarrels between the despotic Stuyvesant and the citizens, who, influenced partly by the settlers from New England, grew more and more anxious for self-government.

In England Charles II had taken the reins of government which fell from the weak hands of the republicans and, anxious to please his subjects and keep his power, had proclaimed "liberty to tender consciences". The Dutch West India Company followed the example, but Stuyvesant, devoted to the doctrines of the Dutch Reformed church, began a series of petty persecutions which drove people to dislike him heartily.



CHARLES II, 1630-1685
REIGNED, 1661-1685

At this juncture news came that an English fleet, sent by James, Duke of York, brother to Charles II, was on its way to capture New Amsterdam. Thoroughly frightened, Peter tried to fortify the city, but the people would work only in a half-hearted way, and when, at the close of August in



JAMES II, 1633-1761
REIGNED, 1685-1688

1664 four English men-of-war anchored outside the Narrows, the people were half anxious for a change of rule. In vain Peter fumed and stormed and tried to evade them; the people would know the terms offered by the English, and when they found that Dutch settlers were promised the same rights as the English, men, women, and children besought him to submit.

"I would rather be carried out dead," said the stern old governor; but he could not hold out alone, and at last the headstrong old man who had 'a heart as big as an ox, and a head that would have set adamant to scorn' consented to capitulate.

On the morning of September eighth the old patriot stumped down Bear Lane from the fort to the place of embarkation for Holland at the head of his soldiers, and an hour later the English flag was raised on the fort and the city proclaimed "New York" in honor of the proprietor. Peter went to Holland to report to the West India Company, but later returned and settled on his "bouwerie" or farm near the eastern coast of the island, and lived in tranquillity until his death in 1682. He was buried under the old church of St. Mark, and in the northern wall of that structure may now be seen a freestone slab*

*A picture of this is found in Hendrick's Brief History of the Empire State, p. 25.

on which is engraved a memorial inscription. "With all his faults Peter Stuyvesant was a grand man of the time in which he lived."

The Burning of Schenectady

On one cold winter day in February, 1670, the snow lay like a cold white blanket over the field, or piled in hugh drifts in sheltered spots, about the frontier post of Schenectady. Schenectady was, at that time, a village of about eighty houses, enclosed in a palisade of logs for protection from the Indians, hostile since the opening of the war between the French and English the year before, known as King William's war.

There were two gates to the town, and about one of these a number of boys and girls were playing in the snow. "Howard, why don't 'oo make a bid snow man for 'ittle May?" lisped a three year old child, whom her brother was drawing on a home-made sled.

"Come, boys, let's make a snow man," shouted the boy, pleased with the idea.

"All right, we'll make some soldiers," was the eager reply. "Let's make one on each side of the gate."

"Hal, you and the little fellows and the girls roll big balls, and we will make the men. Get some shovels, boys."

All was activity and bustle. The snow was rolled into large balls, these were set upon one another, and soon two immense snow images were finished, just as the shades of night began to close in about the little village.

A group of men stood about, watching the children at their work, and the captain of the little company of Connecticut soldiers stationed there sauntered toward the group.

"I think sentinels had better be posted to-night, don't you, Mr. Carver?" he asked of a man who was evidently one of the more influential members of the group.

"Pooh! hoo! No, not I," was the scornful response. "Why should we post sentinels and deprive tired men of a good night's rest, when there is not a live enemy this side of Canada?"

"But we don't know that," persisted the captain; "the woods may be full of sly red devils waiting for night to fall upon us."

"Nonsense, captain," interposed another, "you military men are always imagining some enemy or another is about. There isn't an Indian going to cross those miles of woods between here and the Saint Lawrence, in this weather, let alone a Frenchman."

"The garrison at Pemaquid would have faired better if they had 'imagined some enemy was about' last August," continued the soldier.

"But that was in summer when the travelling's good. Here, boys, if our brave captain will have sentinels, here are some that can do all the work that's needed, and won't object to staying out in the cold;" and two or three of the younger men seized sticks and placed them like guns, in the hands of the snow images.

"Come, Howard and May, we will go home to supper," and Mr. Carver took his children by the hand and led them through the settlement toward the opposite gate of the stockade, near which his home was situated.

Silently the shadows deepened, and the stars came out one by one. The crescent moon sank early to rest, and left the night dark and cold. In the forest above the town, two hundred forms glided as silently as the very shadows themselves among the trees. Had the moon not hidden her face so soon, some would be seen to be darker than others, and clad in the feathers and paint which the Indian dons while on the war-path. In advance was an Indian woman, accompanied by two Frenchmen, commanders of the expedition, whom she was evidently guiding. Not a twig crackled under the feet of any, as swiftly and silently they glided on their snow shoes toward the town.

"This way to the gate," whispered the woman, as they neared it.

"Not so fast; we will approach carefully," replied the Frenchman, fearing as ambush.

"You need not fear. The careless pale face never guards the gates," and the approach was hastened. The gate was reached, passed, and the company of bloodthirsty Indians and their scarcely less bloodthirsty French companions, was in the town.

"William, awaken," called Mrs. Carver in an agony of fear, as a cry smote her ears.

"What is it, wife?" he asked, but did not stop for an answer, for another cry, loud, shrill and triumphant, sounded upon the quivering air, the dreaded Indian war-whoop.

"There is no time to waste, follow me;" and the father snatched up his little daughter as his wife hurried the son along, without waiting for clothing, into the cold night.

"Mother, it is cold, I don't want to —," began the boy.

"Hush, not a sound, the Indians," and they made a rush for the gateway near, their only hope of escape.

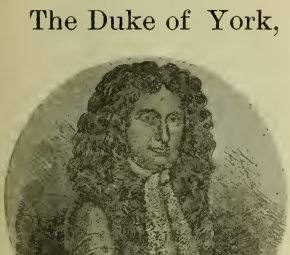
The war-whoops were now mingled with the crack of rifles and the shrieks of the dying, and the landscape was lighted faintly by the flames of some dwellings which had been fired, each moment growing brighter. Could they cross the open space between the stockade and the woods

beyond without being discovered by some hostile eye, and killed by the sure bullet of some savage warrior? Others were running in the same direction, all with no other clothing than their night clothes. Never did the distance to the first tree seemed so long! Now they must be discovered by the light of that bright flame! But no, no rifle pours its flame of death in their direction.

At last the forest is reached, but they must not pause; already the light and the whoops of the enemy tell them that no part of the town is free from the fierce savages. On, on, through the woods they go. Only a few, and most of them with frozen feet and hands, reached the safety of the fort at Albany, while the invaders, laden with plunder and scalps, and taking twenty-seven captives with them, retreat toward Canada.

Near the stockade two snow images partially melted by the heat of the burning building and blackened with cinders, kept their vain vigil over the smoking ruins of the town and its former inhabitants, strctched cold and lifeless on the reddened snow.

Jacob Leisler

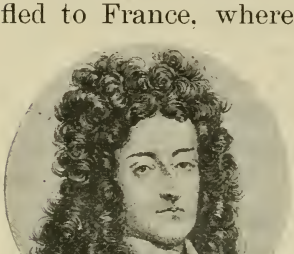


Sir Edmund Andros, 1637-1713

The Duke of York, who had become King of England at the death of his brother, Charles II, in the spring of 1688 united the province of New York with New England, making Sir Edmund Andros governor. Although Andros was received by the loyal aristocracy of New York with great rejoicing, he soon made himself cordially hated throughout the colonies by his haughty and despotic conduct.

About this time the news reached New York of the birth of a young prince. Most of the Dutch settlers, as well as the Protestants of England, had hoped for the accession of Mary, wife of William of Orange, and daughter of James Second. This hope was now killed. James's folly and recklessness, especially in attempting to restore the Roman Catholic faith in England, led to an invitation to William to come and "deliver the land from Popery and slavery".

James's son was excluded from the succession on the ground that he was not truly the son of the queen, and James himself, forsaken by all, fled to France, where his wife and child had



WILLIAM III. 1650-1702
REIGNED, 1689-1702

MARY II, 1662-1694
REIGNED, 1689-1694

already been sent. William and Mary were declared joint sovereigns of England.

When this news reached New England, Andrus was seized, thrown into prison, and later sent to England, charged with the mal-administration of the affairs of the colony. The people of New York were on the verge of an insurrection when the news of the accession of the new sovereigns was revealed to them. Two parties were found in the city, one composed of the adherents of James, while the other, constituting a large majority of the friends of the new sovereign, who contended that, as the revolution had overthrown the established government, all power reverted to the people.

Prominent among those who advocated this latter view was Jacob Leisler, a German merchant and captain of militia. Leisler was a zealous Protestant, a kind man, and one possessed of an unusual amount of energy and determination.

As rumors of terrible things contemplated by the partisans of James spread through the town, the militia gathered and requested Captain Leisler to take charge of affairs. Colonel Bayard, who was an aristocrat, attempted to interfere, and was obliged to flee for his life. Nicholson, the old lieutenant-governor, departed to England, thus giving the people's party, or Leislerians, a decided advantage. Bayard continued to stir up opposition to Leisler, was captured, arrested, and imprisoned on a charge of " high misdemeanor against His Majesty's authority ". The opposition of the aristocrats, who were angered still more by this act, became more bitter.

In the meantime Colonel Sloughter had been appointed governor, but did not arrive until the spring of 1691. Before his arrival Richard Ingoldsby, a captain of foot, arrived with a company of regulars. As he was the highest officer in the colony, the aristocrats urged him to assume supreme authority. He demanded the surrender of the fort without showing his credentials. Leisler refused. Ingoldsby was defeated in an

attempt to take the forts by force, and compelled to await the arrival of Sloughter.

When the governor did arrive, Leisler at once gave up to him his authority over the forts, and the province. Sloughter, although a just man, was over-persuaded by Bayard and others to order the arrest of Leisler, Jacob Milborne, his son-in law, and six others. They were tried on a charge of high treason by a court composed entirely of Bayard's friends. Leisler refused to plead, but appealed to the king. His appeal was never sent. Sloughter was constantly besought to sign a warrant for the execution of Leisler and Milborne, but refused, postponing it until he could hear from the king. The people in large numbers petitioned for the pardon of the prisoners. This alarmed Bayard, who saw that, if he was to secure the death of his enemy, it must be done quickly. Knowing he could not do this by fair means, he resorted to treachery. Sloughter was invited to a dinner party on Staten Island, and so plentifully supplied with wine that he became stupidly drunk. While in this condition a death warrant was shown him, and he was induced to sign it. It was sent to the sheriff at New York that same evening, and the execution of the two prisoners ordered the next morning. The governor was, in the meantime, kept drunk.

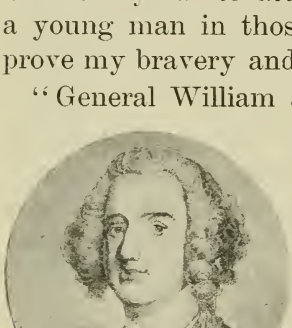
The wives of Leisler and Milbourn were sent for, and parting words were hurriedly spoken. In the drenching rain the two patriots were led to the scaffold. Only a few citizens, some of them women, were present. Seeing among the spectators Robert Livingston, one of his most bitter enemies, Milborne said: "Robert Livingston, I will implead thee at the bar of Heaven for this deed." Leisler uttered a prayer for blessing upon the province and his family, and, speaking of his enemies, said: "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do." The heavens grew darker and darker, women screamed, and amid the torrents of rain, the souls of the two martyrs ascended to their Maker.

ROBERT LIVINGSTON

Grandfather's Story of Fort Edward

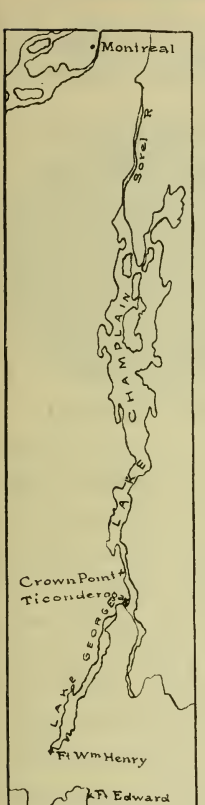
"Yes, children, it was many years ago, in the summer of 1755," began grandfather to the children clustering about him and demanding a story, "that I went with General Johnson and Colonel Lyman to attack Crown Point. I was a young man in those days, and very eager to prove my bravery and patrioim.

"General William Johnson had come to the Mohawk valley to take charge of the estate of his uncle, Sir Peter Warren, and had succeeded, by kindness and justice, in winning the confidence of the Iroquois. He was given command of an expedition intended to capture Fort Crown Point and rid Lake Champlain of the French.



Gen. William Johnson. 1715–1774

"Colonel Phineas Lyman, of Connecticut, was second in command, as brave and capable an officer as ever led a regiment. He started from Albany one bright summer morning, with



the main body, consisting of a few hundred colonial troops and King Hendrick's Mohawk braves, with drums beating and colors flying. My brother Joe was one of the drum corps, and I had promised mother I would keep an eye on him. Poor mother! how she hated to have Joe go! He was her youngest. But he was a brave lad, and anxious to pay off the French for the atrocities they had committed.

"We kept on through the woods for fifty miles, until we reached the 'great carrying place'* between the Hudson and Lake St. Sacrament. Here we stopped and waited for Johnson to come up with the artillery and stores. While we were waiting, Lyman occupied the time in constructing a fortification of earth which was named Fort Lyman. I was used to work in the forest in those days, and much preferred felling trees to tramping along the hilly country roads,

*This map is from Hendrick's History, p. 71.

carrying arms and ammunition, but, like the rest, became impatient at the delay of the commander.

"At last Johnson came and took command. The news of Braddock's defeat took all the spirit out of him, and he would have given up the whole expedition if Lyman had not persistently urged him to go forward. At last he consented to do so. He changed the name of the fort we had built to Fort Edward, calling it after the young prince. The troops did not like this, as they had insisted upon calling it Fort Lyman.

"Johnson decided to proceed to Crown Point by way of Lake Saint Sacrament, which he now called Lake George, in honor of the king. We arrived at the head of the lake, one warm, sultry night, and encamped by the lake shore. We were tired from an unusually long and hard march that day, and when an officer asked Johnson if he intended to fortify the camp he said 'No, the country is safe, no enemies are about and the men are too tired.' The next day we expected the order to fortify, as it was decided to remain there for a short time, but none came, and we remained there day after day in the open camp.

"One day some scouts brought the news that the forest to the north was swarming with the French and their Indian allies. Johnson sum-

moned a council in his tent, and, as I was familiar with the country about Lake Champlain, I was called in. Johnson was anxious to send out a small force to relieve the garrison left at Fort Edward under Lyman. The opinion of King Hendrick was asked as to the advisibility of such a course. 'If they are to fight, they are too few; if they are to be killed, they are too many,' replied the sagacious old savage. Johnson deferred to his judgment and sent a force of twelve hundred under Colonel Williams, two hundred of whom were Hendrick's braves.

KING HENDRICK, 1690–1755

"Joe and I were both to go. We started back the next morning, marching as rapidly as we well could, for we were afraid Fort Edward might be surprised before our arrival. Contrary to our expectations, our foes had changed their destination and were marching toward the camp.

"It was about ten o'clock when all at once, as we were marching along in the front ranks, Joe, who had eyes as keen as a lynx, saw something suspicious among the trees by the roadside ahead, called out, 'A red-skin, as I live!' and began to beat a loud alarm on his drum. In a

second the woods to the front and the left were alive with the enemy, and a volley of bullets gave us a warm reception. We had fallen into an ambuscade.

"No troops could stand the hot and sudden fire, and all fled in haste toward the camp. I was only a short distance from Joe, and sprang toward him. He was hit in the shoulder. 'It's only a flesh wound,' he said, in reply to my anxious query, as we started to follow our fleeing column.

"Many of the troops were old Indian fighters, and as soon as they recovered a little from the surprise they, loaded as they ran, turned occasionally and fired at the pursuing enemy, taking advantage of every tree and elevation of ground which could afford shelter. The flight soon became somewhat less of a panic-stricken rout.

"On we went for miles, Joe losing blood and becoming weaker. At last, just as we came within sight of the camp, Joe staggered, fell, and said faintly, 'Go on, George, I can't go any further. I'm done for.'

"'Go and leave you? Not much,' I replied; and picking him up in my arms, for he was a slight, slender lad, I staggered on with him.

"The troops at camp had heard of our defeat, and had hastily thrown up a breastwork of trees and planted upon it the two small cannons which

had been sent the day before from Fort Edward. When we reached the breast-work, I could not take another step with my load, and was about to fall when some of the boys grabbed Joe and me and drew us to a place of safety, if any part of the camp was safe.

"We were scarcely within the camp when the motley crowd of French, Canadians, and Indians came down upon us. The Indians were terrified at the discharges from the cannon and fled to the woods. Colonel Lyman came up just at that moment with part of the garrison of Fort Edward, and at his appearance the Canadian militia also fled, but the French regulars, under Baron Dieskau, stood firm; Johnson had received a wound in the leg at the beginning of the action, so Lyman took command. After continuing the fight for about four hours, the regulars at last took to flight, their commander being fatally wounded. The victory had been won, and the army saved by General Lyman.

"Lyman, and in fact all the other officers, were anxious to push on and capture Ticonderoga and Crown Point, while the French were panic-stricken by their defeat and not in a condition to repel an attack; but Johnson soon learned that the fortifications were being strengthened, and refused. He abandoned the entire enterprise, and set about building Fort William Henry, at

the head of the lake. This being completed he returned to Albany, leaving a garrison there and at Fort Edward."

"Did you go back with him, and did uncle Joe soon get well?" queried the children.

"Joe's wound healed, but it was more serious than we at first thought, and he was not able to return to the army. I went back to Albany with him, and soon enlisted in another campaign.

"General Johnson, soon after his return to Albany, sent to England a report of the campaign, in which a mean spirit of jealousy so far got the advantage of him that he did not even mention Colonel Lyman. The British government conferred knighthood upon him, gave him great estates in New York, and a fortune of twenty-five thousand dollars."

"Did Colonel Lyman ever get any reward for his bravery?" questioned one.

"Yes, years later, for this and for other services, he was given a grant of land in West Florida, and there he died soon after he had received it. History, too, does justice to him, and pays to the pure, loyal soldier a much more glowing tribute than to the jealous, immoral, mean-spirited Johnson."

The Stamp Act

Some years ago, while looking over a box of papers in the garret of my grandfather's house at Poughkeepsie, I came upon a package of letters, yellow with age, tied with a faded blue ribbon. Upon a bit of paper which was wrapped around them, was written, in a delicate feminine hand, the words: "Letters from William, written while I was visiting Uncle Daniel in Virginia." All were addressed to Miss Patience Randolph, the maiden name, as I knew, of my great-grandmother Wiley. The following are extracts from some of them, revised somewhat as to spelling and wording, for greater clearness. All were written from New York.

Under date of November, 1765, the writer, whom I concluded to be my great-grandfather William Wiley, says:

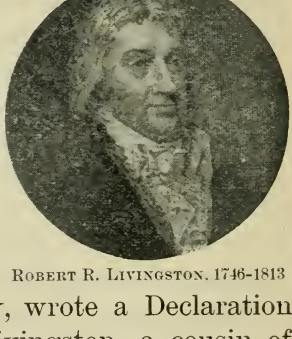
"*My esteemed and beloved Patience:*

"It was with much sorrow and disappointment that I learned of your prolonged stay, although I hope it may be conducive to your health and happiness. In these troublous times I long to pour into your ears the relation of the hap-

penings of each day, without being obliged to have recourse to the cold and unsatisfactory medium of the pen.

"You know that a convention of delegates from the colonies was to assemble here on October seventh, to discuss measures to be taken in regard to the odious Stamp Act. It met promptly, and was a unit in its opposition to the tyranical law. Nine colonies sent representatives. For two weeks they were in session constantly. John

JOHN CRUGER, 1710-1792



ROBERT R. LIVINGSTON, 1746-1813

Cruger, whom you know, wrote a Declaration of Rights, and Robert Livingston, a cousin of mine by my mother's side, a Memorial to both houses of parliament. Both of these papers were bold and outspoken in declaring and maintaining our rights, but respectful toward the king, as was a petition to the king written by James Otis of Massachuetts.

"All these were adopted, and copies have been sent to England. In the meantime the law was

to go into effect before these could reach the king and parliament. Last Friday, the first day of this month, was the day appointed for the act to take effect. James McEvert was appointed stamp-distributor.

"Early in the morning I went with some of the men and boys to the meeting-houses, where the bells were tolled while some put the flags at half-mast and fired minute-guns. As only stamped paper may be used for some things, very little business was done that day, or, indeed, has been done since. The courts were closed, all commerce was stopped by mutual agreement by the merchants, and no one even gets married, because the license must be stamped. The merchants of New York who met on Thursday last, decided to send out a letter to the merchants of other cities inviting them to join with New York in refusing to import stamped goods. This surely will effect the English manufacturers. Everybody here is now wearing home-spun.

"The times are troublous and I fear the worst. At all events the colony will not submit to the tyrannical tax. We will not be taxed without our own consent. Mother and Ellen unite in sending love, and wishing for your speedy return.

"Your affectionate,

"William."

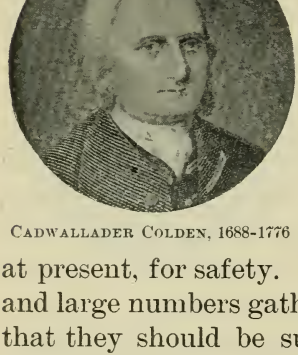
Under date of December first, he writes:

"*My dearest Patience:*

"I did not expect to have an opportunity to write so soon again, but a messenger to Virginia is about to depart, and will deliver this for me.

"* * * The trouble of which I spoke in my last letter grows day by day. We have, as you know, organized the 'Sons of Liberty', of whom I am one.

"When the stamps arrived in the city, McEvert was so alarmed by the demands for his resignation and the opposition shown by the Sons of Liberty, that he refused to receive them, although Lieutenant-Governor Colden had promised him protection. They were taken to the fort, where Colden resides at present, for safety. All were angered by this, and large numbers gathered at the fort to demand that they should be surrendered. Your cousin Rob and I heard of the gathering and went at once, finding only a few there upon our arrival, but in a few minutes the open space in front was black with people.



CADWALLADER COLDEN, 1688-1776

"A demand that the emblems of tyranny should be surrendered was met by refusal, whereat we all shouted, notwithstanding the cannons

of the fort and of two British ships of war were directed upon us and upon the town. We formed a procession and started back, but the orderly procession soon became a howling mob.

"One of the first things we did was to hang Colden in effigy at the spot where Leisler was hanged. Then almost all returned to the fort, and since they could not get inside, entered Colden's carriage-house and dragged out the fine coach he was so proud of, riding about like a king in it. Pushing it to the Bowling Green, they piled it full of wood from the railings of the Green, and burned it. Then they went to Major James's residence, destroyed his fine library, his elegant furniture and his garden; and returned, parading the streets for some time with the Stamp Act printed on large sheets and raised upon poles with the words, 'England's Folly and America's Ruin'. At last Colden ordered the stamps to be given to Mayor Cruger and the common council, the latter agreeing to pay for any they lost or destroyed. We did not return to our homes until late in the night.

"I think the people have possibly gone a little too far in destroying the property of Colden and of James. I did not take part in that. James, however, gave great provocation by saying that he 'would cram the stamps down their throats with the end of his sword,' and that 'if they

attempted to rise he would drive them out of the town, for a pack of rascals, with four and twenty men.'

"At all events, we have gained our end, which was to prevent the use of the stamps. A vessel came into port a few days later, with stamps on board for use in Connecticut, and the boys boarded her, seized the stamps, took them ashore, carried them down to the liberty pole and burned them. The feelings of all grow more and more bitter as time passes. I fear the result.

All unite with me in sending love. Hoping this humble epistle will find you in the enjoyment of entirely restored health, I remain

"Ever your faithful

"WILLIAM."

Capture of Ticonderoga

The breaking out of the revolution found New York peculiarly exposed to attack from the north. By the influence of the Johnson family, the descendants of Sir William, the Iroquois had espoused the cause of the English, and were a restless and warlike foe, ever ready to fall upon scattered settlements or small parties, away from the protection of the forts. Lakes Champlain and George, forming, with the Hudson river, a natural highway between Canada and New York*, and cutting off New England from the other colonies, were almost entirely in the hands of the English. The most important posts held by them were Forts Ticonderoga and Crown Point. Of these the former was better supplied with arms and military stores. At that time it was in a comparatively defenceless condition, and measures for its captures were at once taken.

Ethan Allen, who had raised a body of men called the "Green mountain boys" was selected as leader, and the volunteers raised especially for this expedition were put under command, in

*See map on page 63.

addition to his own company. A man named Phelps disguised himself and entered Fort Ticonderoga as a farmer who wished to be shaved. While playing the part of an ignorant rustic, hunting for the barber, he obtained as much information as possible.

In order that the garrison of the fort might not obtain any knowledge of the proposed expedition, men were placed on every road leading to the fort to intercept all who passed. At Castleton a final rendezvous was appointed and here the final plans were laid. Allen, with one hundred forty men, was to reach Ticonderoga by crossing the lake from Shoreham, on the east side, while a force of thirty men was to capture Skenesborough (now Whitehall) farther up the lake, and drop down to join Allen and assist in transporting his troops.

On the eighth of May, 1775, Allen set out for Shoreham, when Benedict Arnold, a brave and daring young officer, appeared and demanded the chief command, showing a commission from the Committee of Safety of Massachusetts. Allen objected, but Arnold accompanied the expedition.

At sometime before night-fall, on the ninth, the detachment reached Hand's Cove, on the east side of the lake and prepared to cross. There was a scarcity of boats, and, when the first light of morning began slowly to streak the darkness

of night with gray, and the slopes of the mountains caught the first rays of the coming dawn, only eighty-three men had yet crossed. Allen was impatient, fearing least by waiting for the remainder of the men, the golden opportunity of surprise might be lost. A few thrilling words told his men of the danger of the attack, and called for volunteers. Not a man hesitated. All were ready.

Arnold stepped forward again and claimed the command. Allen, sure of the support of his soldiers, refused to give up the leadership of the expedition. Harsh words followed and it seemed, at one time, as if the whole expedition would be given up. At last a friend of Allen arranged a compromise by which Allen and Arnold should march side by side at the head of the troops.

The column of attack was formed, and silently but swiftly they marched up the hill. They were almost upon the dozing sentinel at the wicket gate of the fort when he saw them and snapped his fuse at them, but it missed fire, and he ran into the fort, closely pursued by the rival leaders, with the whole command at their heels.

Once inside, the men were drawn up on the parade ground, and the sleeping garrison was awakened by a shout. The quarters of the commander of the fort, Captain De la Place, were pointed out to Allen, and he aroused the man by

a thundering rap at the door. Alarmed by the unusual noise, De la Place shouted: "What do you want?"

"Come out here and surrender your garrison," was the answer.

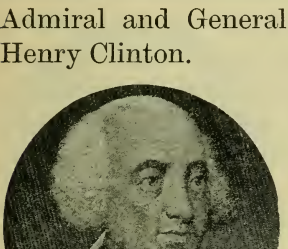
But half dressed the captain appeared, "By what authority?" he demanded.

"In the name of the great Jehovah and the continental congress," replied Allen.

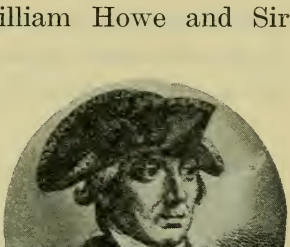
De la Place was about to dispute further but a drawn sword prevented argument, and the garrison was ordered to parade without arms. With Ticonderoga one hundred twenty cannon and large supplies of other military stores fell into the hands of the Americans, who were sorely in need of them.

Washington's Retreat from Long Island

The month of August, 1776, was a trying one for all interested in the cause of American freedom. Washington's army, numbering about seventeen thousand unpaid, poorly fed troops, was confronted at New York by about thirty thousand British and Hessian veterans under Admiral and General William Howe and Sir Henry Clinton.

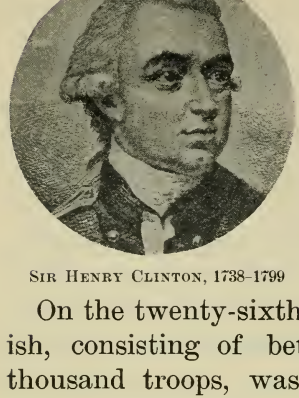


Earl Richard Howe, 1729-1814



Sir William Howe, 1729-1814

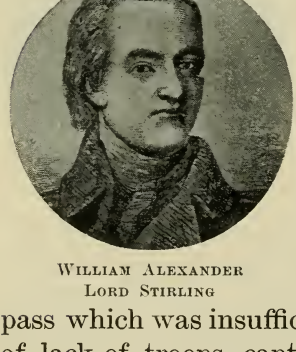
General Green, who had been assigned the command of the American troops on Long Island, had been forced by a severe attack of fever to resign his command just when most needed. General Sullivan, and later General Putnam, was placed in command.



Sir Henry Clinton, 1738–1799

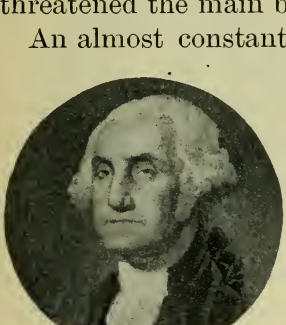
Israel Putnam, 1718–1790

On the twenty-sixth of August a force of British, consisting of between twelve and fifteen thousand troops, was landed on Long Island. Early on the morning of the twenty-seventh, the attack began by the driving in of some of the American guards by the British force. General Stirling was ordered to check the enemy's advance and hold the position if possible. He held it bravely until a larger British force had gained a pass which was insufficiently guarded on account of lack of troops, captured a body of troops under General Sullivan after a brave resistance, and had almost reached his rear. Then he fell back toward the main body, and finding the bridge



William Alexander
Lord Stirling

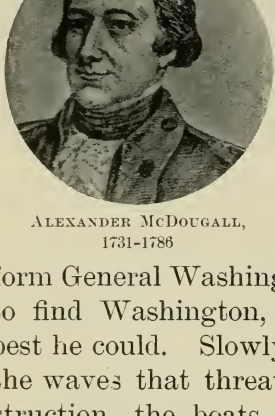
across Gowanus creek in his rear was burned by the British, was obliged to ford the marsh at the mouth of the stream, in the rising tide. With half his troops he remained to meet the enemy, charging again and again upon their ranks until the first division had been protected in crossing, then fell back, but was captured. Washington had crossed over to Brooklyn, but could send no relief to the captured troops, as the enemy threatened the main body.



GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1732-1799

An almost constant rain during the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth prevented any movement by either army. Late in the afternoon of the twenty-ninth a council of war decided to abandon Long Island and retreat to New York city. Washington had anticipated the necessity for this movement, and had obtained all the boats of every kind to be found on Manhattan Island. By eight o'clock they were collected at Brooklyn ferry. The troops had been informed earlier in the afternoon that re-inforcements were expected from New Jersey, and so did not expect the movement. The sick had been sent to New York earlier on the plea that their quarters were

needed for the troops. The night was dark, and a violent storm of wind and rain set in, making the passage difficult and dangerous. McDougall, who had been given charge of transportation, decided that it would be impossible to transport the army in the teeth of the storm, and set out to inform General Washington of the fact. He failed to find Washington, so continued the work as best he could. Slowly battling their way with the waves that threatened their immediate destruction, the boats carrying the first detachment succeeded in making their way across the bay to New York. On account of the gale, the sail boats were useless, and only the row boats could be used. They returned for another detachment.

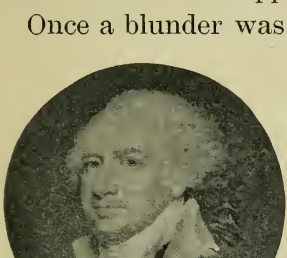


ALEXANDER McDOUGALL,
1731-1786

About eleven o'clock the gale died away and the sky cleared somewhat, threatening to make the night clear enough to expose the movement to the British. Soon a fresh southwest breeze sprang up, rendering the sail-boats of use and the passage easy and expeditious.

All night long the boats passed and repassed with their precious freight. An unusual noise,

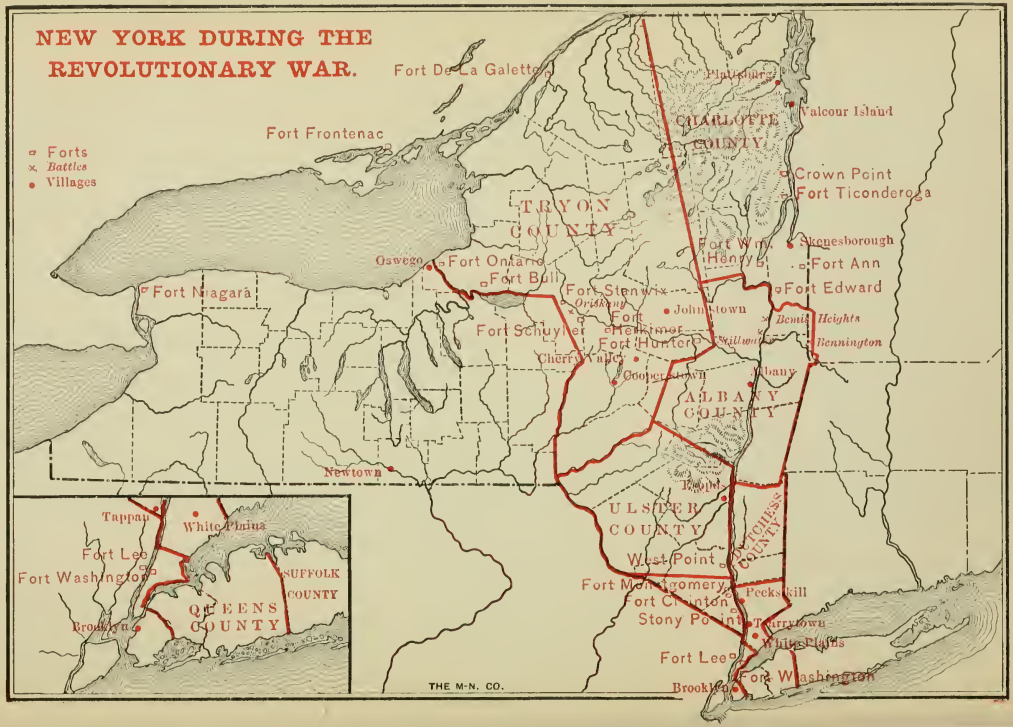
the accidental report of a gun, the gleam of a lantern, might have exposed the whole movement to the enemy and destroyed the army, America's hope. But all night long the British slumbered on, undisturbed by the thought that the army which they hoped to capture on the morrow was fast slipping from their grasp.



THOMAS MIFFLIN. 1744-1800

Once a blunder was made which might have been fatal. General Mifflin had been stationed with six regiments to cover the retreat and occupy the works to the last. By mistake one of Washington's aids brought the orders about two o'clock in the morning, to move at once to the ferry. The retreat was begun, and the troops were all on their way, when Washington came upon them in the darkness. "A dreadful mistake!" he exclaimed, and the men marched back to their posts. The British, fortunately, were still unsuspicious, and, in the words of the historian Gordon, "Providence further interposed in favor of the retreating army, by sending a thick fog about two o'clock in the morning which hung over Long Island, while on the New York side it was clear."

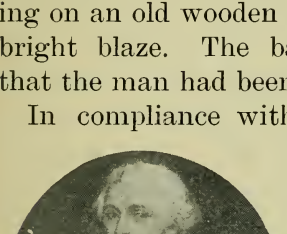
About sunrise the remainder of the troops, and, last of all, the commander-in-chief, followed, reaching the New York side in safety. Thus did the God of liberty protect those who were to aid in preserving a free and independent nation, on the soil made sacred by the sufferings of those who had fled from the persecutions of the old world to the freedom of the new.


NEW YORK DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.
Forts
Battles
Villages
Fort De La Galette
Fort Frontenac
Fort Niagara
Oswego
Fort Ontario
Fort Bull
TRYON COUNTY
Fort Schuyler
Fort Stanwix
Oriskany
Fort Herkimer
Fort Hunter
Cherry Valley
Cooperstown
Newtown
Johnstown
Fort Plain
Canajoharie
Schenectady
Albany
ALBANY COUNTY
Fort Edward
Fort Ann
Skenesborough
Fort Wm. Henry
Crown Point
Fort Ticonderoga
Valcour Island
Plattsburg
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
Bennington
Bennis Heights
Saratoga
ULSTER COUNTY
Kingston
West Point
Fort Montgomery
Fort Clinton
Stony Point
Peekskill
Tarrytown
White Plains
Fort Lee
Fort Washington
Brooklyn
Tappan
White Plains
Fort Lee
Fort Washington
SUFFOLK COUNTY
QUEENS COUNTY
Brooklyn
THE M-N. CO.

Burgoyne's Surrender

Late in October of the year 1777, a small group were gathered about the fireplace of a comfortable log cabin near Albany. A cold wind made the fire in the fireplace cheery and inviting. The company about the fire consisted of several children; two women, one evidently the mother of the other; and an old man reclining on an old wooden settle, drawn up before the bright blaze. The bandaged limb proclaimed that the man had been wounded.

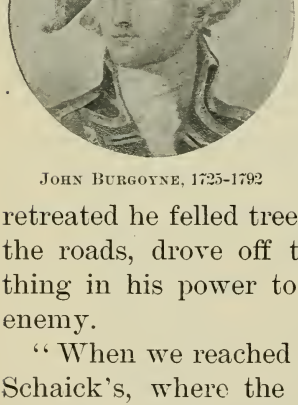
In compliance with repeated requests from the children, at last the old man said: "Yes, children, I'll tell ye all about the battles and how I came to get these ugly bullet wounds. You see when your father and I started out the first of August in response to General Schuyler's urgent call for troops, we set out for Fort Edward. We found the camp in a very confused condition.



Daniel Morgan, 1736-1802

Morgan's splendid riflemen, which, with two other brigades and some stores, Washington had sent from his own army, though he could ill spare them, Arnold and Lincoln of Massachusetts, and volunteers from New York and New England had arrived, making a strange mass of troops.

"Burgoyne with his fine large army, abundant stores, and Indian allies, had had a sort of triumphant procession down Lake Champlain, had captured Fort Ticonderoga, which Schuyler and all the Americans had thought inpregnable, and had reached the head of the lake. As Schuyler retreated he felled trees, burned bridges, tore up the roads, drove off the cattle, and did everything in his power to retard the march of the enemy.

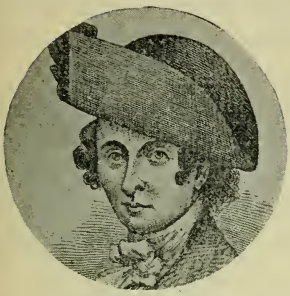


JOHN BURGOYNE, 1725-1792

"When we reached the army it was at Van Schaick's, where the Mohawk flows into the Hudson*. The army was pretty well discouraged but some news from two different sources cheered us up somewhat. Burgoyne had sent a force of eighteen thousand British regulars,

* Now the city of Cohoes.

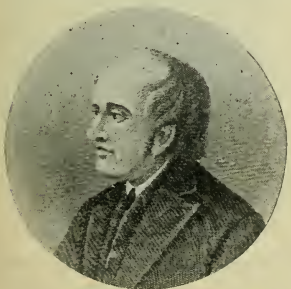
Tories, Canadians, and Indians commanded by



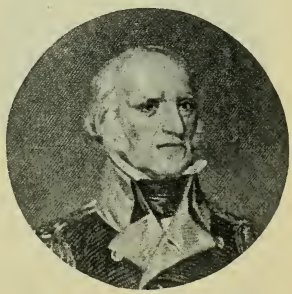
BARRY ST. LEGER, 1732-1789

SIR JOHN JOHNSON, 1742-1830

Colonel St. Leger and Sir John Johnson, son of William Johnson, up the St. Lawrence to Oswego, thence down the Mohawk with orders to capture Fort Schuyler. This expedition, we learned, had failed, although it seemed at one time as if the ambush of a force of Americans under General Herkimer, which had been sent to relieve the fort, meant the total defeat of all efforts to hold the valley and prevent St. Leger's



NICHOLAS HERKIMER, 1715-1777

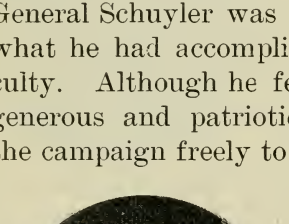


JOHN STARK, 1728-1822

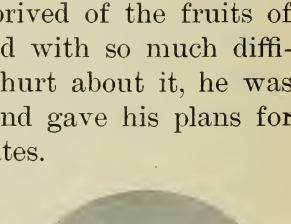
joining Burgoyne. A force sent out by General Schuyler was successful in driving St. Leger back to Canada, and we felt no fear from that quarter.

"Then came the cheering news that General Stark had captured Colonel Baume and one thousand troops which had been sent out to capture our stores at Bennington in the Hampshire Grant. We began to cheer up and recruits came in more rapidly.

"Just at this General Gates was given the supreme command by congress, and our brave General Schuyler was deprived of the fruits of what he had accomplished with so much difficulty. Although he felt hurt about it, he was generous and patriotic and gave his plans for the campaign freely to Gates.



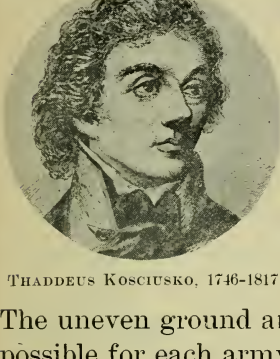
PHILIP SCHUYLER, 1733-1804



HORATIO GATES, 1728-1806

"On the twelfth of September we moved camp and took up a position at Bemis Heights.

Arnold and Kosciusko selected the site, and Kosciusko strengthened it by a line of redoubts and breastworks. We were directly in the line of Burgoyne's march to Albany. On the eighteenth there was some skirmishing. The next morning the fight began in earnest. Arnold's brigade was first to see heavy fighting, but it soon became general. The uneven ground and woods in front made it possible for each army to approach within easy range. We had no artillery, but the enemy had four cannons. These were, for some time, the centre of attack. Again and again we captured these guns, but were forced back. I myself saw Tom Haines of Concord sit astride the muzzle of one of those cannons and kill two regulars with his bayonet before a bullet struck him down. At sunset both armies ceased firing, and we withdrew to our fortified line. Thus the day ended in a drawn battle, but Burgoyne's advance had been checked.



THADDEUS KOSCIUSKO, 1746-1817

"Nearly three weeks passed before either party did anything. We were receiving recruits, while the English were becoming weaker day by day. Burgoyne was waiting for help from

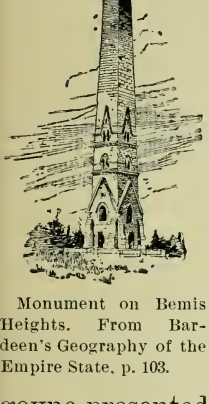
Clinton, who, you know, came up as far as Esopus, burned it, then returned to New York.

"Finally Burgoyne saw that, as his stores were giving out, he must do something and that quickly. He ordered an advance and tried to turn our left. Morgan's riflemen prevented this, and the battle was joined all along the line. In less than an hour we had the advantage. At this time Arnold, who, on account of a personal quarrel with Gates, had been removed from his command, could no longer resist the temptation to be in the thickest of it, and dashed upon the field. He joined his old division, in which your father and I were fighting, and assumed command, carefully avoiding the aide whom Gates had sent to recall him. Here, there, everywhere where the fight was the thickest, Arnold could be seen on his large black horse, and wherever he called, 'Come on boys!' we were not slow to follow. With a cheer all rushed after him wherever he led. At dusk the red-coats retreated to their intrenchments, but even then Arnold and Morgan followed them, and, breaking through the line, forced the Hessians who held it to abandon their position.

"Just as he was charging through the sally-port in this last attack Arnold was wounded. I was close behind, and as I pressed forward to his assistance, a bullet from the rifle of a Hes-

sian struck me and I fell. A little later I was carried from the field, knowing the enemy thoroughly beaten.

"The next night Burgoyne retreated to Saratoga. Our army followed, surrounding the British completely, and cutting off their line of retreat. Without supplies and outnumbered by our army, he was forced to surrender on the seventeenth. It was a fine sight, I can tell you. Our army was drawn up that morning in a field, and the whole British army, nearly six thousand strong, marched out from their camp and stacked arms. Burgoyne presented his sword to Gates, saying that the fortunes of war had made him Gates's prisoner. We gained some military stores, but, more than that, have prevented the junction of Burgoyne and Clinton, and the cutting off of New England from the other colonies."



Monument on Bemis Heights. From Bardeen's Geography of the Empire State, p. 103.

"But, Grandpa, what is to become of the English troops?" asked a little fellow seated on the floor, nestling his head against his mother's knee.

"They are to be sent back to England on condition that they will not serve again during the war, I think."

"It is time all you children were in bed now" said the mother. "If you are up too late, you will not be ready to get up early in the morning for the milking."

The Capture of Stony Point

During the early part of the summer of 1779 the British under Clinton had ascended the Hudson River and captured the forts at Stony Point and Verplanck's Point, opposite, completing the unfinished fortifications at the former place, and furnishing both with arms and garrisons. Washington believed Clinton's ultimate object was the seizure of the forts in the Highlands, and the ferries affording communication between New England and the southern colonies. It was desirable that these points should be re-captured, both because of their own importance, and because in this way Clinton, who had just returned to New York with the purpose of invading New England, could be kept from sending his troops so far away with an active enemy in his rear.

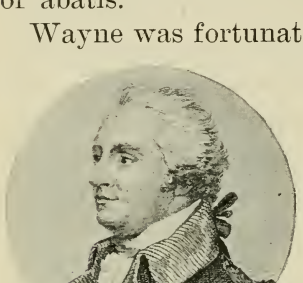
It was a daring undertaking, and Washington selected for it a man renowned for his dashing bravery, General Wayne, often called "Mad Anthony".

On July 15, the troops which were put under the command of Wayne for the expedition started from Sandy Beach, fourteen miles away,

and at eight o'clock in the evening reached the rendezvous, foot-sore and weary.

The fortress of Stony Point was a headland projecting into the river and cut off from the mainland by a morass. A causeway was the only means of crossing this. The approach on the land side was further protected by two rows of abatis.

Wayne was fortunate in being able to obtain a guide who was provided with the countersign, a negro slave belonging to Colonel Lamb, who was an ardent whig residing in the neighborhood. Pompey was accustomed to go to the fort with cherries and berries for sale, and since the beginning of the season for hoeing corn, had not been allowed to go during the day, and therefore had to make his trips at night, and was supplied with the countersign.



ANTHONY WAYNE, 1745–1796

The Americans started about eleven o'clock with Pompey and two strong men disguised as farmers in advance. So dark was the moonless night that the troops were obliged to put pieces of white paper on their hats in order to distinguish one another. When he reached the first

sentinel to the west of the causeway, Pompey stopped and entered into a conversation with him, and while his attention was thus engaged the negro's two companions seized and gagged him. The sentinel at the causeway was secured in the same way, and as soon as the tide had ebbed sufficiently, the troops crossed over to the foot of the western declivity of the promontory, unobserved by the British. The little band was then formed into two columns, one of one hundred and other of one hundred fifty volunteers, and with fixed bayonets pressed forward, preceded by an advance guard of twenty men to remove the abatis and other obstructions. They were ordered to use only bayonets in the attack, and any officer seeing a man aim his musket was to cut him down.

One column advanced toward the fort from the north and the other from the south. Silently they approached until they were at the foot of the hill, within pistol shot of the pickets upon the heights, when they were discovered and a skirmish ensued. The garrison was aroused and the cry, "To arms! to arms!" the rattle of musketry, and the roar of cannon sounded forth upon the night air.

During the time which elapsed while the Americans were climbing the hill, some of the British shouted, "Come on, ye rebels!" "Don't

be in such a hurry, my lads, we'll be with you presently," was the reply from the column advancing in the face of a murderous fire from above.

Lieutenant-Colonel Fleury first scaled the ramparts and tore down the British flag. His column closely followed him. Wayne, struck down from a wound from a musket-ball exclaimed: "March on! Carry me into the fort, for I will die at the head of my column." Fortunately the wound was not as severe as he at first thought, and he soon recovered.

In less than half an hour from the firing of the first shot, the fort was completely in the hands of the Americans, with over five hundred prisoners, fifteen cannon, and a large quantity of military stores. The American loss was fifteen killed and eighty-three wounded, while the British had sixty-three killed.

At two o'clock in the morning of the sixteenth of July, Wayne sent General Washington the following despatch: "The fort and garrison, with General Johnston are ours. Our officers and men behaved like men determined to be free." In a subsequent despatch he said: "The humanity of our brave soldiers, who scorned to take the lives of a vanquished foe when calling for mercy, reflects the highest honor on them, and accounts for the few of the enemy killed on this occasion."

The value of this victory on the spirits of the Americans and in inducing Clinton to postpone indefinitely a movement upon Connecticut, as well as the advantages derived from the military stores captured, can hardly be overestimated.

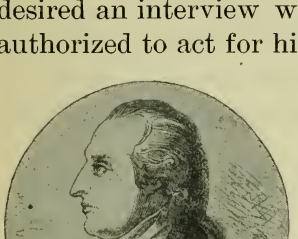
Arnold's Treason

Benedict Arnold had been known throughout the Revolution as one of the bravest officers of the American army, but unquestioned as was his bravery, there were many who had serious doubts as to his patriotism. While stationed in Philadelphia he had married Miss Shippen, a beautiful young tory, and had made many friends among the partisans of the king. He had lived luxuriously and beyond his means and was accused of using the continental funds dishonestly to pay his own enormous debts. For this and other charges he was tried and sentenced to be publicly reprimanded by the commander-in-chief. Few could have done this as delicately as did Washington, but it left its sting behind, and probably strengthened a resolution which he had previously entertained of espousing the cause of the British.

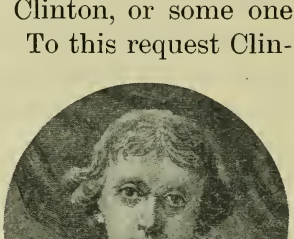
When in 1780, he applied for and obtained the command of West Point, the most important fortification on the Hudson, he had already been in communication with Sir Henry Clinton, commander of the British forces in New York, for

about eighteen months. To Clinton, Arnold had given much valuable information, and without disclosing his identity, convinced Clinton that he was an officer of high rank.

When he received command of West Point he desired an interview with Clinton, or some one authorized to act for him. To this request Clin-



BENEDICT ARNOLD, 1741-1801



JOHN ANDRÉ, 1751-1780

ton acceeded and sent Major John André to meet Arnold and arrange the details of the nefarious plot. Arnold tried for several days to get André within the American lines as John Anderson, merchant. André was prevented by the hazard of the undertaking, and the certainty of being arrested and executed as a spy if discovered. Just at this time Washington had gone to confer with his French allies at Hartford, and delay would be dangerous, as Washington's plans might change, and unforeseen obstacles arise.

Arnold made an attempt to meet André at

Dobbs Ferry, but was fired upon by the guard-boats and obliged to give up the undertaking. André then pushed on to the "Vulture", a British man-of-war lying just above Sing Sing. After communicating his presence to Arnold, he was taken, on the night of September 21st, by Joshua Smith, a man sent by Arnold, to the west bank of the Hudson, and landed at the foot of a hill called Long Clove Mountain, about two miles below Haverstraw.

There the traitor was waiting, concealed in the thick bushes. There in the darkness the conspirators discussed their dark plans. Dawn approached and the conference was not yet ended. Although André had been ordered by Clinton not to enter the American lines, assume a disguise, or take any papers, he reluctantly consented to accompanying Arnold to the house of Smith, four miles distant. Just after they arrived there, the Americans opened fire on the Vulture, and obliged her to drop down the river, cutting off André's escape in that direction.

During the morning the plot was completed, and André, though against orders, took papers explanatory of the military condition of West Point. He placed these in his stockings, exchanged his uniform for citizen's clothing belonging to Smith, and, supplied with a pass signed by Arnold, at nightfall set out on horseback for the English lines, accompanied by Smith.

After crossing King's Ferry and starting by the road toward White Plains, Smith left André to proceed alone. It had been reported the night before that British marauding parties, who infested the country above New York, were on the Tarrytown road, and wishing to fall in with them, André took that direction. Riding along through the forest about half a mile above Tarrytown, André came suddenly. about noon, upon a party of three continental soldiers, John Paulding, Isaac Van Wart, and David Williams. (See frontispiece.)

As he approached, Paulding rose, presented his firelock, and asked André which way he was going. Thinking the men must be some of the cowboys he sought, he replied: "Gentlemen, I hope you belong to our party."

"Which party?" asked Paulding.

"The lower party," was the answer.

Paulding replied that he did.

"I am a British officer out on particular business," continued André, "and I hope you will not detain me a minute."

Upon hearing this assertion, Paulding ordered him to dismount. André saw he had made a mistake. "My God!" he exclaimed, "I must do anything to get along," and showed his pass from Arnold, adding as he did so: "By your stopping me, you will detain the general's business."

"I hope," replied Paulding, "you will not be offended; we do not mean to take anything from you. There are many bad people going along the road. Perhaps you may be one of them. Have you any letters with you?"

André answered "No". He was taken into the bushes and searched for papers. Three packets were discovered in each stocking, some of them in the handwriting of Arnold.

"This is a spy," said Paulding.

André asked if they would let him go for a hundred guineas.

"Not for ten thousand guineas," cried the the patriot.

They delivered him to Lieutenant-Colonel Jameson, who commanded the post at North Castle, going away without demanding any reward or leaving their names.

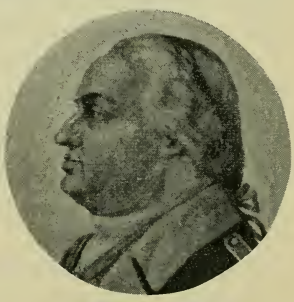
André was confined in Old Salem, yet, strangely, given permission to communicate with Arnold by letter. Arnold received his letter while at breakfast with some of the aides of General Washington, who was on his way back from Hartford and was engaged in examining the river fortifications. Retaining his self-possession, he excused himself, saying he must attend at once to some urgent business across the river, went to his wife's room, told her he was discovered and must flee for his life, and, leaving

her in a faint, kissed his infant son, jumped on his horse, and rode to the river. There he got into his barge and was rowed down the river to the Vulture. Washington arrived soon after his escape and immediately took steps to preserve West Point.

André wrote a letter to General Washington in which he excused himself for having been "betrayed into the vile condition of an enemy in disguise," and added, "The request I have to make to your Excellency, and I am conscious I address myself well, is that, in any rigor policy may dictate, a decency of conduct toward me may mark that, though unfortunate, I am branded with nothing dishonorable, as no motive could be mine but the service of my king, and as I was involuntarily an imposter."

André was, throughout the whole affair, treated with a delicacy and kindness in striking contrast with the treatment received from the

MARQUIS DE LAFAYEYTTE, 1757-1834



BARON STEUBEN, 1730-1794

British by Nathan Hale. He was conveyed to the headquarters at Tappan and then tried by a court of which Lafayette, of the French army, Steuben, from the staff of Frederick II of Prussia, Green, and others renowned for their uprightness and justice were members. The report was unanimous that "Major John André, adjutant-general of the British army, ought to be considered as a spy from the enemy and suffer death." The court showed its indulgence to him in every way possible, and he acknowledged this generosity in the strongest terms, even saying that "if there were any remains in his mind of prejudice against the Americans, his present experience must obliterate them."

Clinton did everything possible to gain the freedom of André, offering everything in his power except the exchange for Arnold which his sense of honor forbade, and demanding his release as one who had been protected by "a flag of truce and passports granted for his return".

In his reply to Clinton, Washington enclosed the report of the court which had tried André and observed that "Major André was employed in the execution of measures very foreign to flags of truce, and such as they were never meant to authorize."

André's conduct before his execution was brave and calm. While awaiting the time, he em-

ployed himself in writing letters to his friends and relatives, and in drawing. A pen-sketch of himself sitting at a table is still in existence, and is said to be an excellent likeness.

He had hoped to be shot and when, as he approached the place of execution, he observed the gallows upon which he was to suffer, he was visibly affected, but soon recovered and said that he was "reconciled to death, but not the mode", and called upon the bystanders to witness that "he met his death like a brave man."

After his death the king knighted his brother, pensioned his mother and sisters, and raised a memorial to him in Westminster Abbey. Arnold received as the reward of his treason and dishonor, a commission of brigadier-general in the British army, between six and seven thousand pounds, sterling, pensions for his wife and children, and the opprobrium and disgust of all dying in poverty and disgrace.

Battle of Plattsburg

"I was a little girl ten years of age," said my grand-mother, "when the most exciting event of my life happened."

"Tell us about it, grand-ma," shouted the five grand children drawn up in a circle about the fire. Chairs were drawn closer and the young faces put on an expectant look.

"I saw a battle, my dears," replied the cheery old lady, picking up her knitting.

"I should like to see a naval battle," put in Rob, "That would be the most exciting."

"The one I saw was both a naval and a land battle," continued grandmother.

"Both? how could it be both, and where was it?" came in a chorus from the excited children.

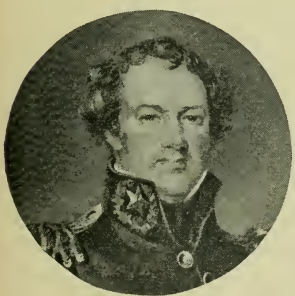
"Get your maps and look for Plattsburg, children. Now, Bess, if you have found it tell us where it is."

"Here it is grandma, way up in the northern part of the State, on Lake Champlain."

"Yes, and you notice the Saranac River, which flows for a short distance almost parallel to the lake shore, there turns and flows into the

bay, forming a little peninsula. At the time of which I shall tell you, the autumn of 1814, we were at war with Great Britain for the second time, and Sir George Prevost determined to invade New York State by way of Lake Champlain, as you know Burgoyne did in the Revolutionary war, and penetrate at least as far south as Crown Point. In order to do this he must capture Plattsburg. At that time we lived on a farm near the town, and not far from the lake: in fact so near, that from a clump of trees in our pasture we could overlook the lake, and the same time get a good view of the town.

"Early in September General Izard, who had been in command of a body of troops stationed at Plattsburg to prevent the British invasion, left the town with a large part of his force, to relieve General Brown who was besieged at Fort Erie. He left behind a small force under General Alexander Macomb, who was aided by a fleet of ten barges or gunboats and four larger vessels commanded by Lieutenant Thomas McDonough. By appealing to the citizens of New York and Vermont, Macomb succeeded in adding three thousand



ALEXANDER MACOMB, 1782-1841

volunteer militia to his little force of two thousand five hundred. During the first week in September we heard that Prevost was advancing along the shore with fourteen thousand men, accompanied by his fleet of four ships and twelve gunboats, commanded by Captain Downie.

"From the clump of trees in the pasture of which I have spoken, we could see our troops toiling on three redoubts which with two blockhouses they constructed on the little peninsula between the river and the lake. It was my favorite occupation to watch them, and whenever I could I stole from the house to watch the progress of the work as well as I could from that distance.

"On the eleventh of September, calling my younger brother, Ted, we started out to watch the men in the town. 'Get the shovel and let's make earth-works,' I suggested, and Ted brought the iron fire-shovel while I got a hoe and followed. 'We must have a bugle call like the soldiers,' I said, and hurrying back to the house took the tin dinner horn from the peg behind the door, where it always hung, and slipped slyly out of doors with it.

"We played for a time making a little mound of earth just at the top of the hill under the trees, and putting sticks in it for cannon, pretending to repel an attack from the lake, when

Ted cried, 'Look at the boats!' The little American fleet was drawn up in line across the mouth of the harbor, the four larger vessels in advance, the barges inside and opposite the spaces between them. Up the lake we could see the sails of what we knew must be the British ships. We watched them as they approached, and as they came nearer, we could see also the land troops. O what if they should defeat our little army!

"The red lines seemed endless. Soon they neared the river and the cannon began to belch out their fire, the shots striking about the redoubts, but we could not see that it did much damage. In the meantime the ships had approached and joined battle, and the rumble of the cannon on shore was answered by the roar from the water. Breathlessly we watched them. The land troops approached the river, and attempted to cross at several points, protected by the heavy artillery fire. The attempts were in vain, for our brave men fought desperately and repelled them again and again.

"The conflict on the lake, too, became more and more fierce. McDonough himself, as we afterward learned, had pointed the first gun from the 'Saratoga', which raked the English flagship 'Confiance'. For an hour we watched the fire from the whole line, gun answering gun in

rapid succession until all the ships seemed ablaze. Toward the last, gun after gun stopped its fire, disabled. The 'Saratoga's' whole starboard battery was disabled, and we saw her swing completely around, and her larboard battery opened fire. The 'Confiance' attempted to do the same but was unsuccessful and was soon obliged to strike her colors. The other ships which had not already surrendered soon followed her example, although many of the galleys drifted out into the lake and escaped.

THOMAS MCDONOUGH, 1783-1825

"We understood by this time that our men had won the battle, both on the lake and on shore. 'Let's go and tell mamma we've beat!' shouted Ted, but just then a barge which was drifting inshore caught my eye. Her rudder seemed to have been shot away, making her helpless. Soon a boatload of men in red coats put off from her and rowed rapidly for the shore. They landed just below where we were, and, frightened, we threw ourselves down on the ground and peeped over our little mound at them.

"They stopped for a moment and held a whispered consultation. At last we heard one who

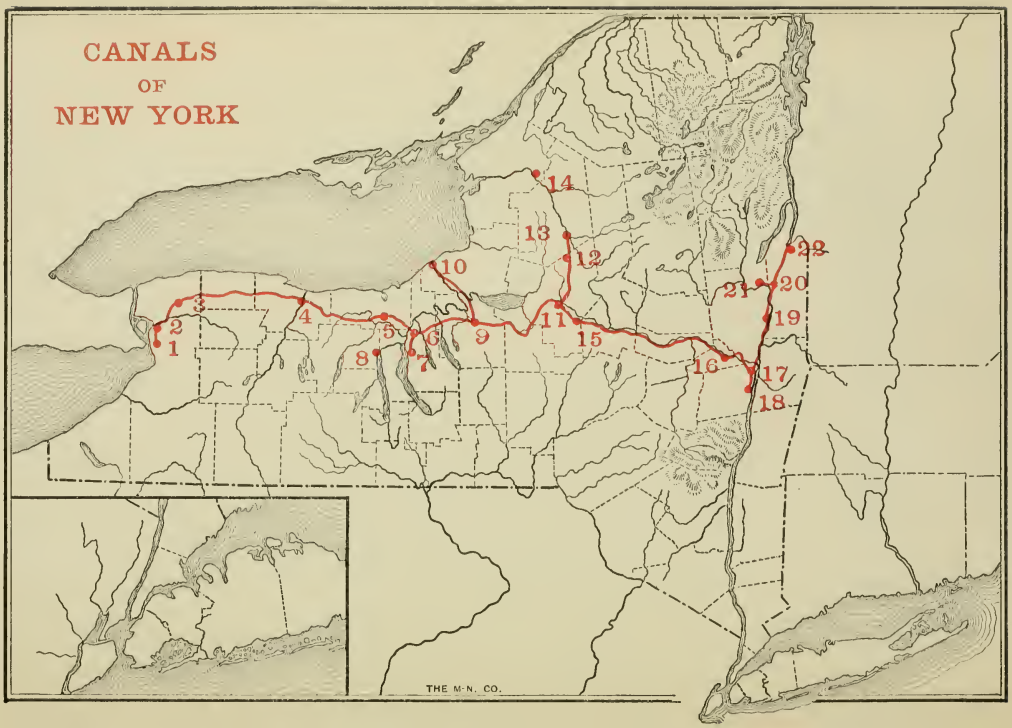
evidently in command say: 'We must have horses. Then we can ride around their lines and joined our column on the retreat. There must be horses on these farms around here. Up the hill, boys, and get them.' Just then Ted, who in his interest had leaned too far forward, dislodged a stone and it rolled down the hill. The men heard it, looked up, and we dodged back. They hesitated, and one pointing to our mound, said something about a rifle-pit and an ambush. Another saw our sticks which we had mounted for cannon, and thought them gun barrels. After more whispering they decided to continue up the hill, and with rifles presented, advanced. I thought of 'Gypsy', my own black colt, grazing with the other horses in the field. They should not take her away! How could I prevent it?

"Casting my eyes bout, I spied our bugle, the old time dinner horn, and picking it up blew terrible blast, thinking to scare the horses and make them run into the woods. The blast had very different effect, for the Englishmen stopped, then turned and fled back to their boat.

"Looking down over the hill, we saw them row hastily out toward the middle of the lake, as if to reach one of their own fleeing gun-boats. Observed by one of our vessels, they were soon overhauled and taken prisoners."

"And where did the English land troops go to?" queried Rod.

"They marched back to Canada, my dear, and Lake Champlain, with its adjacent shores, was left in peace."


CANALS
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THE M·N. CO.

The Erie Canal

"From fair Albania, toward the setting sun,
Back through the midland length'ning channels run;
And the fair lakes, their beauteous towns that lave,
And Hudson's joined to fair Ohio's wave."

—*Joel Barlow's "Vision of Columbus", 1787.*

On the morning of October 28, 1825, a flotilla of canal-boats was gathered at Buffalo, waiting for the waters of Lake Erie to flow into "Clinton's Big Ditch", as the Erie canal was often called in derision. Eight years before, on July 4th, 1817, the first spade was struck into the ground to excavate for the great water highway from the great lakes to the Atlantic. Now the gigantic task was about completed, and the boats awaited to commence their journey from Buffalo to New York. The signal was given, the water rushed into the canal, and boom! went a cannon by its banks. Hardly had the sound died out on the clear autumn air when the sound of another gun was heard to the eastward. This was the signal for the firing of still another, and thus

from one to another the news of the opening of the canal was carried from the west toward the east, and in an hour and twenty minutes reached New York.

As soon as the canal was filled with water the barges entered in a stately procession. All were beautifully decorated. First came the boat "Seneca Chief", drawn by four powerful gray horses. On board were Governor Clinton, to whose energy, foresight and perseverance the canal was largely done, Lieutenant-Governor Tallmadge, and other distinguished guests. They had on board two brightly painted barrels of water from Lake Erie. One of the large barges which followed was called "Noah's Ark", and contained a bear, two fawns, two live eagles, and a variety of other birds and beasts, as well as two Seneca Indians in native costume.

The novel procession was viewed by crowds at the villages on its route. At Rochester, where the canal crosses the Genesee River, a sentinel stationed on a boat on the river called out as the "Seneca Chief" approached: "Who comes there?"

"Your brother from the west, on the waters of the great lakes," was the reply.

"By what means have they been diverted so far from their natural course?" continued the sentinel.

"Through the channel of the grand Erie canal," was the response.

"By whose authority, and by whom was a work of such magnitude accomplished?"

"By the authority and by the enterprise of the people of New York" cried many voices from the deck of the "Seneca Chief".

At Albany, the eastern terminus of the canal, the flotilla was received by a grand procession and the passengers escorted to the capitol where great crowds were gathered and congratulatory speeches were made.

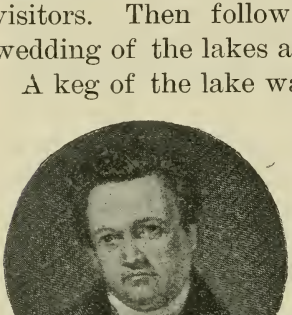
From Albany the canal boats were towed to New York by Hudson River steamers. The passengers of the "Seneca Chief", and the water from Lake Erie were transferred to the "Chancellor Livingston", which took the former to tow and, joined by many others, moved down the river, amid the waving of flags and firing of guns.

Before daybreak November fourth, the strange flotilla anchored off Greenwich village, a suburb of New York. At a given signal, flags were unfurled all over the city, and the handsomely decorated steamer "Washington" conveyed the municipal officers of the city to the anchored boats. "Where are you from and what is your destination?"

"From Lake Erie and bound for Sandy Hook," was the reply.

The fleet was joined by many other boats of all kinds and, after receiving salutes from the Battery, Castle William on Governor's Island, and two British ships of war lying in the harbor, formed a procession and moved toward the sea. After passing the Narrows the United States schooner "Dolphin" approached as a messenger of Neptune to inquire in regard to the visitors. Then followed the ceremony of the wedding of the lakes and the ocean.

A keg of the lake water was brought to Governor Clinton on the deck of the "Chancellor Livingston". Lifting the keg and pouring the water into the sea, the governor said: "This solemnity, at this place, on the first arrival of vessels from Lake Erie, is intended to indicate and commemorate the navigable communication which has been accomplished between our Mediterranean seas and the Atlantic Ocean, in about eight years, and to the extent of four hundred twenty-five miles, by the wisdom, public spirit and energy of the people of the State of New York; and may the God of the heavens and of the earth smile most propitiously on this work,



DeWitt Clinton, 1769-1828

and render it subservient to the best interests of the human race." After an address, salutes and music, the procession moved back to the city, a banquet being served on the steamers on the way.

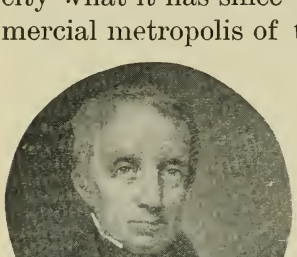
During this time a civic procession representing all classes of New York's citizens had paraded the streets with banners and music. The representatives of twenty-two industrial societies piled their trades upon platforms drawn in the procession. A printing press in one of these cars constantly printed and scattered the "Ode for the canal celebration" beginning thus:

"'Tis done! 'Tis done! The mighty chain
Which joins bright Erie to the Main
For ages shall perpetuate
The glory of our native State."

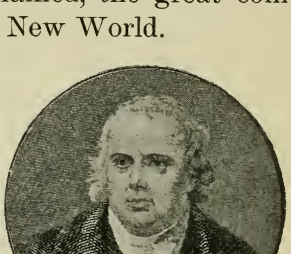
The festivities were continued by illuminations and banquets, and terminated with a grand ball, at which more than three thousand people were present.

Thus did the State celebrate its greatest undertaking. Begun at a time when the finances of the State were at a low ebb, it had been carried on and completed by New York State alone, at a cost of about nine million dollars, which was later increased to over fifty millions by enlarging it. Fortunately for her, the United States government refused to assist in the undertaking, although it would benefit the whole north west,

and the State has the honor and glory of carrying the stupendous project to a successful completion. This great water highway gave an outlet to the products of the North-West, cheapened transportation to a wonderful degree, built up cities on its route, and made New York city what it has since remained, the great commercial metropolis of the New World.



CHRISTOPHER COLLES, 1738-1816



GOUVERNEUR MORRIS, 1752-1816

It is to such men as Christopher Colles, who first suggested the canal, Governor DeWitt Clinton, Robert R. Livingston, and Gouverneur Morris, more particularly to Clinton, that the State owes this undertaking; and yet, among all who have been so honored, she has never raised a statue to the memory of the man who accomplished so much against such seemingly insurmountable difficulties.

Books for New York Schools.

1. *A Manual of School Law.* By C. W. BARDEEN. Cloth, 16mo, pp. 300. Manilla, 50 cts.; cloth, $1.00.

This book has been for twenty years the only recognized text-book on the subject. The present edition was wholly re-written in 1896, and brings the subject up to date. It includes the author's "Handbook for School Trustees", and adds all the questions in school law given at uniform examinations from the first to March, 1896, *with full answers as published by the State Department corrected to date* according to changes in the law. As school law is hereafter to be required in all teachers' examinations, 2d and 3d grades, as well as 1st, this book is absolutely indispensable to every teacher, and hence has been put in the Standard Teachers' Library.

2. *Laws of New York relating to Common Schools*, with Comments and Instructions, and a digest of Decisions. Leather, 8vo, pp. 807. $2.50.

This is what is known as "The Code of 1888", and is the final authority upon all disputed questions.

3. *A Descriptive Geography of the Empire State.* By C. W. BARDEEN. Cloth, 8vo, pp. 126, with 25 outline maps on uniform scale, 5 relief maps, and 125 illustrations. 75 cts.

The advance orders for this book exceeded any that have before been received for any of our publications. Its most marked characteristic is its appeal to the eye. Its illustrations are abundant and typical, and its 25 outline maps on uniform scale, each making prominent *one thing at a time*, commend themselves at sight. No New York school can afford to be without it.

4. *A Brief History of the Empire State.* for Schools and Families. By WELLAND HENDRICK, A.M. Cloth, small 4to, pp. 201. 75 cts.

This book has proved one of our great successes, more than three hundred schools having officially adopted it. This subject has been made a part of the Regents' course of study, with special questions in the examinations, and the Department of Public Instruction gives it five counts at the examinations for State certificates. Whether used as a history, or as a supplementary reading-book, it has given universal satisfaction.

5. *Civil Government for Common Schools*, prepared as a manual for public instruction in the State of New York. To which are appended the Constitution of the United States, and the Declaration of Independence, etc., etc. By HENRY C. NORTHAM. Cloth, 16mo, pp. 220. 75 cts.

This book no longer needs description, as its use is almost universal. The present edition gives all the changes under the new constitution.

6. *A Chart of Civil Government.* By CHARLES T. POOLER. Sheets 12 x 18. 5 cts. The same folded for the pocket, in cloth covers, 25 cts.

7. *History of Educational Journalism in New York.* By C. W. BARDEEN. Paper, 8vo, pp. 45. 50 cts.

C. W. BARDEEN, Publisher, Syracuse, N. Y.

Hendrick's Brief History of the Empire State.

The success of this work may be judged from the fact that the last Regents' report giving the text-books used shows that the number of schools in which Hendrick's History is used has increased from 98 in 1891-2, when first published, to 162 the next year, 189 the next, 231 the next, and 268 in 1895-6, the last reported, while two others are used altogether, and these only in 2 schools. Since the Regents give two counts to New York history, and the Department of Public Instruction gives nearly half the questions in American history to New York history, principals are not slow to see that the trend in history as in geography is toward beginning at home, and making first well-known that which is nearest. Here are some testimonials:

Entered 50 in New York history; passed 42, or 92% of class. Think the book first-class for the purpose.—Principal *J. A. Bassett*, Richfield Springs.

We use your History, 40 in the class. *It is the best supplementary Reader I ever saw.—F. L. Gammage*, Headmaster St. Paul's School.

Hendrick's book was used as a supplementary book in one of our grammar classes with very great acceptance. The teachers report great interest on the part of the pupils, and express the opinion that the book is admirably adapted to the purpose for which it was designed. *It was by all odds the most popular reading book placed in the hands of the class.*—Principal *E. N. Jones*, Plattsburgh Normal, while superintendent at Saratoga Springs.

Two things especially impress me in perusing this work, viz.: the *importance* of this knowledge to the school children of New York State, and the means of acquiring the same, made attractive by the clear and concise style of the author.—Commissioner *Oscar Granger*, Tioga county, N. Y.

What a fine work the "History of the Empire State" is! I hope to see it in every school, for it is exactly such knowledge that will prove most instructive to the children of our State.—*A. H. Wilson*, School Commissioner, Fayetteville, N. Y.

Mr. Welland Hendrick, a teacher of history, finding the need of a brief history of New York State, set about to supply the deficiency. The result of his labors in compilation, arrangement, and condensation is a very satisfactory text-book. In a compact manual of eighteen chapters he outlines the story of the Empire State. The descriptive matter is well furnished with wood-cuts, portraits and maps. In an appendix a number of well framed questions are given for each chapter, making the work doubly useful for the scholar and teacher. There is also an index. * * * It is really quite refreshing to find the maker of a text-book of the history of New York going at it properly, instead of hieing at once, as is usual with the compiler, to Washington Irving, and taking him seriously. Mr. Hendrick shows the sturdy qualities of the first settlers of New York, pays high tribute to the merits of the Hollanders, does justice to Leisler, emphasizes the story of liberty, gives due proportion of space to the events leading to the Revolutionary and later wars, and to the triumph of peace. The last chapter treats of the era of centennial celebrations.—*The Critic.*

C. W. BARDEEN, Publisher, Syracuse, N. Y.

Prentice's History of New York State

The demand for a history of New York fuller than Hendrick's History of the Empire State and brought down to date has led to the preparation of this volume, which, it is believed, will meet the requirements for several years to come. It contains three times as much material as Hendrick's, and carries the narrative to 1900, ending with the nomination of Gov. Roosevelt for vice-president.

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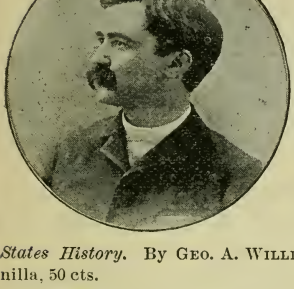

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